

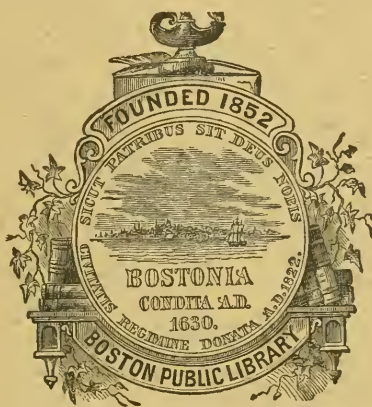
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

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Class No. R. D. S.

Gift of Boston Public Library





THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT.

1890.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON.

1890.



BOSTON:
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS.
1891.

TO HIS HONOR NATHAN MATTHEWS, JR.,

Mayor of the City of Boston:—

The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston have the honor to submit herewith their thirty-ninth annual report.

An ordinance of the city requires that the Trustees "shall annually appoint an examining committee of not less than five members, who, together with one of said Board as chairman, shall examine the Library and make to said Board a report of its condition." The members of the committee for the past year were: Miss Anna S. Amory, Samuel Arthur Bent, Esq., Martin Brimmer, Esq., Miss Harriette S. Lawrence, Miss Alice Lee, Samuel F. McCleary, Esq., Thomas S. Perry, Esq., Dr. Harold Williams, and the Hon. Frederick O. Prince, who, on behalf of the Trustees, acted as chairman.

In order to give ample time for a thorough examination of the condition of the Library, they were appointed in January, and the Trustees and the community at large are under great obligations to them individually for the diligence and fidelity with which they performed the duty imposed upon them. Their report—which was submitted on the fifteenth of January, 1891, and is annexed hereto as Appendix "A"—has received from the Trustees the careful and respectful consideration to which a communication from such a source is entitled.

Some of the suggestions and recommendations made by the committee have been adopted by the Trustees; others of them, while their adoption would probably increase the usefulness of the Library, are of such a nature that they can not be put into practical operation without the expenditure of more money than has been put at the disposal of the Trustees by the City Council, to whose consideration they must, therefore, be respectfully referred.

The relation of the Public Library to the schools has been frequently discussed in previous reports, but as the Examining Committee have referred to the subject, it may not be out of place for the Trustees to state briefly what appears to them to be the purpose for which the Library was founded, and the policy adopted by the first Trustees, which has been consistently observed by their successors.

The Library was founded not as a subsidiary and collateral aid to the schools, but as the complement of the free school system. To quote the words of Mr. Everett on the occasion of the dedication of the present Library building, "Education does not end with the schools; nor is all education conducted within the school-room or lecture-room. Even a college degree is but the significant A.B. of a whole alphabet of learning still to be acquired. The great work of self-culture remains to be carried on long after masters and tutors and professors have finished their labors and exhausted their arts. And no small part of this work, I need hardly say, is to be carried on under the influence of good reading and by the aid of good books."

The great object of this Library is to enable all citizens to have access to the best of books for the purpose of self-culture. The education of children in the schools is cared for and directed by the school committee, who have abundant means to furnish pupils with all necessary books required for school-work. There seems, therefore, to be no good reason why pupils or teachers should have any privileges in the Library not accorded to all citizens alike. Pupils and teachers are not debarred from the privileges of the institution, but have, in common with others not connected with the schools, every opportunity to pursue special investigations or gratify their desire for good reading.

In the purchase of books the Trustees aim to put within the reach of all citizens books of practical value to the artisan, to the professional man, and to the student, which otherwise, by reason of rarity or cost, would be inaccessible to the great body of citizens. They aim also to place before the readers "the pleasant and healthy literature of the day," while it is yet fresh. Of good books on matters of great interest to the public a number of copies are usually bought. It would, however, be beyond the means of the institution, and foreign to the purpose for which it was established, to attempt to supply fully the immediate demand for new and popular books. No public library should compete with circulating libraries and booksellers in supplying such a demand. The funds of the Library would soon be exhausted, and in a few years the shelves would be filled with duplicate copies of books that would not be called for, and that could be disposed of only as waste paper; for few popular books after a free circulation are in a condition to be sold or exchanged. It has not been the object of the Trustees to furnish what is called "light reading," and considerable care has to be exercised to keep from purchasing books that would be not only useless, but positively objectionable.

The circulation of the Library could be greatly increased by the indiscriminate purchase of novels, but it must be remembered that the value of the Library to the community is not to be measured merely by the number of books lent. The use of one good book does more good than the circulation of a dozen poor ones.

The Trustees cannot do more than has been done to extend the usefulness of the Patent library. They have always used their best endeavors to keep it well up with the times, and have provided for it greater accommodation than they have been able to afford for any other special collection. They believe the present custodian is a competent person for his position, and is satisfactory to those who consult the library. No complaints against him have reached them. During the coming year they hope to be able to add to the collection a complete set of United States patents classified according to subjects, to complement the present set, which is arranged chronologically.

The members of examining committees enjoy, equally with all citizens, the privilege—that has always been most freely exercised—of at all times, formally or informally, “calling the attention of the Trustees to any pressing needs of the branch libraries or buildings;” but the Trustees can conceive that if, as is suggested by the sub-committee, examining committees should regard it as part of their duty to make frequent informal reports, they might feel that their functions were those of a supervising body,—functions too onerous to be required of a committee appointed only “to examine the Library, and make a report of its condition.”

By the by-laws, the management of the branches devolves upon the Librarian, and it is his duty to visit them as frequently as is necessary in order to know their condition and needs. All the librarians of branches are in direct daily communication with the Central Library, and they have every possible opportunity to make known their wants. All needed repairs are attended to as soon as possible, and are not delayed to be called for by examining committees. Some of the branch library-rooms, the Trustees are well aware, are not what they should be; but they are the best that can be provided with the means at their disposal. No case has, however, been reported where books have been injured or destroyed by lack of repairs to buildings occupied by branch libraries in annexed districts.

The Trustees are not surprised that the “poor quality of gas is a subject of complaint at Jamaica Plain.” In this respect the branch suffers in common with the Central Library and other branches. It is to be feared that this is an evil that cannot be remedied by the Trustees.

The Trustees agree with the committee in the dissatisfaction they express in regard to the premises occupied by the Dorchester branch library. This very useful branch deserves better accommodations than have been provided for it.

The Trustees recognize the fact that new catalogues for the different branches are desirable; but the expense of catalogues is very great, and they have found it impossible, with their present means, to do more than they have done. Heretofore the branch librarians have not been required to do cataloguing work. It is proposed, in the future, to make cataloguing one of the requirements of the position, and by this means it may be possible to furnish the branches with the means needed for their proper use.

The condition of the North End delivery-station and reading-room has been the subject of careful consideration. The Trustees have made constant endeavors, in which they have had the assistance of the police department, to find suitable quarters; but they have thus far been unsuccessful. They have reported the condition of the neighboring premises to the Board of Health, and have done what they could to render the reading-room habitable. In May, in response to a request by the City Council to report "upon the expediency of maintaining a circulating library instead of the present delivery-station and reading-room," they replied as follows:—

"While they are of opinion that a circulating library at the North End would supply a need that has been long felt, they do not think it would be expedient or possible to establish one in the restricted quarters on Salem street, at present used for the North End delivery-station and reading-room.

"At the time this delivery-station was opened they could find no better place for the purpose, and they do not know where a branch library can now be established, unless the city will make suitable provision for one in the proposed building for a new police-station."

Objection was made to the use of any portion of the police-station building for a library, and no action was taken upon the report.

There is certainly great need of better library accommodations for the populous districts in the North and West Ends which are now the most poorly served in the city. The Trustees believe that a delivery-station and reading-room situated in the neighborhood of Bowdoin square

and Cambridge street would be more useful than some of those already established.

There has been no change of policy in regard to furnishing books to branch libraries. The Trustees are aware that the supply of books sent to the branches during the past year has not been so great as in some preceding years. This is not the result of a change of policy, but of lack of money, as the amount appropriated for the purpose by the City was not adequate to supply the demands of the Library. The money that can be devoted to the purchase of books is practically what remains of the annual appropriation after providing for expense of administration. As the Library grows, the cost of administration necessarily increases, and if the annual appropriations are not increased in like ratio, the supply of books must be reduced and the usefulness of the Library be seriously impaired.

During the past year the cost of maintaining the branch libraries, including the Lower Hall, has been seven-sixteenths of the whole appropriation; so that the Trustees were confronted with the question whether the Central Library should be permanently and irreparably injured in order to provide the customary supply of books to the branches, or whether the branches should suffer temporary inconvenience in order to keep the Central Library from suffering such injury. They decided that it was best that the branches should suffer. It is a temporary inconvenience for the branches to be deprived of their usual supply of books; but to neglect to keep the main Library well up with the times works an injury that can never be repaired.

There has been a marked increase in the use of books, especially in Bates Hall — the Library proper — which contains only standard literature. This fact is extremely gratifying, as it indicates a growing demand for good reading.

The experiment begun in December, 1889, of keeping the Bates Hall open until 9 o'clock in the evening has been continued during the year, and the result has been entirely satisfactory. The hours between six and nine have been found to accommodate a large number of workers who are unable to use the Library in the daytime.

The opening of this Hall on Sunday from two till nine, which was begun early in February, has been followed by a like gratifying result. It is to be hoped that the funds placed at the disposal of the Trustees by the City Government will enable them to make this service permanent, as its usefulness has been demonstrated beyond doubt.

BEQUESTS AND GIFTS.

Mr. Arthur Scholfield, who died in January, 1883, bequeathed to the city \$50,000, the income of which was to be paid by his brother, the late Joseph Scholfield, during his life, and afterwards used for the purchase of books. Mr. Joseph Scholfield died in 1889, and by his will bequeathed to the city for the use of the Library the income that he had received from his brother's bequest, amounting to \$11,766. This sum was received and invested by the City Treasurer in May.

The bequest of \$10,000 made by the late J. Ingersoll Bowditch, and referred to in a previous report, was received in January, and the income then became available for the purchase of mathematical and astronomical books.

In May Mrs. John A. Lewis gave to the Library the exceedingly valuable collection of books made by her late husband, relating to the early history of America. This was considered a gift of so great importance that it was made the subject of a special communication to the City Government, who, in June, voted to Mrs. Lewis the thanks of the city. This collection will not be distributed among the books of the Library, but will be kept separate and known as the "John A. Lewis Library."

Appended to this report is a list of other gifts, for which the thanks of the Trustees and of the city are due to the givers.

It is exceedingly gratifying to note from the number and value of these gifts and bequests that the interest taken in the Library is constantly increasing.

In their annual report for 1858 the Trustees of that year, in view of the "character of the institution as a public establishment in which the community at large will enjoy greater advantages than have ever been afforded in any other case to the population of a large city," suggest "to such of their fellow-citizens at large that can afford it, the expediency of making an annual present to the Public Library of at least one good book." "This," they say, "might be done by many thousands of the citizens of Boston without any inconvenience: and, besides adding to the stores of the Library, would tend to extend and strengthen the sympathy of the people at large in its welfare." The Trustees venture to renew this suggestion. Doubtlessly many citizens of Boston have in their houses great numbers of books that are practically useless to them, but which would be of great value to the Library. In cases where such books are dupli-

cates of volumes in the Central Library they can be sent to the branches. If any persons desiring to give books to the Library will notify the Trustees, a messenger will be sent for them.

THE BARLOW SALE.

In the early part of the year the City Council, with great generosity and foresight, appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of books at the sale of the library of the late S. L. M. Barlow. The dispersion of this collection afforded an opportunity, that may perhaps never happen again, to obtain many rare and valuable books relating to early American history that should be found in the Public Library of this city, if it is to maintain in the future the position it has held in the past. Great care was taken in the selection of the books to be purchased, and in the determination of the amounts to be bid for them. A full report in regard to this sale was made to the Mayor in February, and a list of the books purchased will be found in the April, 1890, Bulletin.

The most valuable books purchased were the Latin version of the first letter of Columbus, which was reproduced in facsimile in the October Bulletin, and "A True Copie of the Court Booke of the Governor and Society of the Massachusetts Bay in New England."

INDEX DIGEST.

In January His Honor Mayor Hart, in a letter to the Trustees, informed them that an index digest of all city documents was greatly needed by both the City Government and the public, and suggested that they should devise a plan for making one. The subject was carefully considered, and Mr. Whitney, the assistant librarian, was instructed to prepare sample pages of the proposed index to submit to the City Government. Owing to the forced reduction in Library service, this work has been delayed, but the Trustees hope to be able soon to report further upon the subject.

BULLETIN.

With the April number began a new series of the Bulletin, with a change to a classified arrangement which gives an approach to books from a different point from that of the card catalogue, and which, to a certain extent, supplies the deficiencies of that catalogue. The bibliographical matter appended to the Bulletin issued this year is of unusual interest. The Trustees are under great obligations to Paul

Leicester Ford, Esq., of Brooklyn, New York, for his generous contribution of a list of the publications of the Continental Congress. This list is of very great value to students of American history, and has added great interest to the Bulletins in which it is published.

A ninth and greatly enlarged edition of the "Hand Book for Readers" has been published, containing the regulations of the Library, with an account of the catalogues, a bibliography of special subjects, a list of indexes to periodicals, and other information. The book is of great assistance, not only to persons using the Library, but to all readers and students, and reflects great credit upon the editor, Mr. Whitney, and those of the Library force who assisted him in this work.

Owing to the smallness of the amount appropriated for the maintenance of the Library for the present financial year, the efficiency of the institution has been seriously impaired. The Library force has of necessity been greatly decreased, and much useful work discontinued. It is a matter for the serious consideration of the City Council whether the Library shall continue to grow in usefulness as heretofore, or whether the policy pursued up to this time by the Trustees shall be changed so as to meet the necessities of an inadequate appropriation. The increase of the Library in size and usefulness has been wonderful; but there has been of late years no corresponding increase in the amount of money annually appropriated for its maintenance.

SAMUEL A. B. ABBOTT,
HENRY W. HAYNES,
FREDERICK O. PRINCE,
PHINEAS PIERCE,
WILLIAM R. RICHARDS.

January 20, 1891.

NOTE.—The tables that have usually accompanied the Librarian's report will be found in the appendixes. Owing to the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain there has been practically a vacancy in the office of librarian, although his official connection with the institution did not end until the first of October.

The semi-annual report of the Trustees upon the condition of the new Public Library building is appended, following page 58.

[APPENDIX A.]

EXAMINING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Examining Committee organized, with the Hon. F. O. Prince of the Board of Trustees as chairman, soon after receiving notice of their appointment, and divided themselves into various sub-committees for the better performance of their task. They have held several meetings, in which various reports and suggestions have been discussed, and their work has been greatly facilitated by the readiness of the officials and of the Trustees to explain to them the complicated matters necessarily involved in the administration of the Library. Many matters have been the subject of discussion between the committee and the Trustees, and the committee are anxious to express their gratification with the opportunity to express in oral discussion with the gentlemen in charge of the various and complicated affairs of the Library their views on these matters and to learn those held by the Trustees.

At the present time, the duties of the Trustees are much augmented by their superintendence of the construction of the new Library building. This edifice, already an ornament to the city, even in its partly completed condition, is destined to be of the greatest possible use by offering to the public much greater facilities for the consultation of the rich stores of the Library. At present, the Boylston street building is utterly outgrown. Both the Bates Hall and the Lower Hall reading-rooms are crowded far beyond their capacity, although measures have been taken to give more room to the public. It is not the public alone that suffers inconvenience, the officials of the Library have to perform their ever-increasing duties in the most cramped quarters. In the new building, which, it is to be hoped, will be completed with the utmost promptness, great relief will be obtained for all who have occasion to enter the Library.

The committee earnestly support the intention of the Trustees to provide in the new building full accommodations for a large number of readers and students. The greater the facilities, the greater, the committee are sure, will be the number of persons using them. Already the

Library is resorted to by many workers from other places, and the more it is enlarged and improved, the surer the Library is to become a place of resort for strangers as well as for citizens, whereby an advantage accrues to the city. It is desirable, not merely to provide a room that shall be an agreeable spectacle to the chance visitor who walks through it, but one giving every student who requires it such isolation as may be consistent with the interests of the Library for work without distraction. Already the service is prompt and efficient. Those who recall the delay in receiving books with which one is hampered in the libraries of Europe must smile at the now rare complaints concerning the slow supply of books in this Library. Volumes from a remote corner of the third story cannot be brought instantly, but they can be and are brought promptly. The extreme difficulty of working when elbowed by a crowd will doubtless be removed in the new building.

The committee regret the enforced economy in the purchase of books, which has cut down the supply in the Central Library and in the Branches. It is understood that the expenses of the Library have increased not only with the natural growth of the Library, but also on account of two very important changes that have been made in the course of the last year. One is keeping the Bates Hall open till 9 o'clock every evening; the other is opening Bates Hall on Sunday from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. This last change has been the subject of much discussion in past years, and when it was first proposed it met with violent opposition. Gradually, however, the objections evaporated; and when the change was made, it did not excite a murmur. It was found, indeed, that the opportunity for visiting and making use of the Library was taken by many who were kept away by their occupations during the rest of the week, and that the Library offered welcome advantages to a number of serious workers. Inasmuch as the same change is under discussion with regard to the public libraries of many cities in the country, the committee are anxious that the experience of Boston may not be overlooked. The committee are unanimous in commending these innovations; the public shows its appreciation by the use it makes of them. An additional, or what is for some the only, opportunity for serious reading seems in every way admirable.

The Examining Committee suggest to the City Council that, inasmuch as the money paid into the Library for fines, the sale of catalogues, etc., amounting to about \$3,000 yearly, is now turned into the City Treasury, in accordance with the new City Ordinances, it would be well to have the

annual appropriations enlarged to the same amount, if it be deemed inadvisable to alter the Ordinances to that effect. Such sums of money are properly, it seems, the Library's earnings, and might conveniently be kept where they would be directly devoted to defraying the legitimate expenses of the Library.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In the report of the Examining Committee for 1888 certain recommendations were made to the Trustees concerning cards to be issued to teachers and pupils, which have not been adopted. Since that time your committee understand that the School Board makes an annual appropriation to increase the number of books for use in the higher grades of schools, and does not ask the Trustees at present for further legislation. The subject of assistance to be given by public libraries to the young is of growing importance. Your committee find that large cities like Philadelphia and Chicago, and smaller municipalities like Providence, Worcester, Cambridge, and Newton, give a larger number of books to school children than to other citizens, regarding the library as a means of education, like a laboratory of philosophical or chemical apparatus. The committee are glad to know that in the absence of any such system in Boston, the Library officials, both in the main building and in the Branches, spend much time and a very laudable degree of effort in directing the young to books which assist them in their studies and give them a taste for pure and noble literature.

PATENT DEPARTMENT.

In the new Library building many of the inconveniences here mentioned will be done away with, and what is true of this department is true of all the other departments of the Library, which now suffer seriously from overcrowding. The shelves are uncomfortably full, and new books have to be placed in new and often remote quarters, and the staff of Library assistants works under very unfavorable conditions.

The beneficial results of removing the Patent Library from its former contracted quarters into its present and more accessible room is shown in a marked degree by a gratifying increase in the number of examiners; and it exhibits an undoubted proof that the greater and wider the facilities of consultation, the more satisfactory and advantageous will be the consequent results.

It was a felicitous remark of John Heard, Jr., a member

of the Examining Committee for 1888, that the artisan, though "accustomed to tools, is afraid of books." Indeed, the average mechanic, upon his entry into the patent-room of the library, with its shelves on all sides fitted to the ceiling with specifications and plans, foreign and domestic, is fairly bewildered at such an array, and at once feels his inability to fulfil his purpose alone. In the absence of a general card catalogue for this department he would undoubtedly feel relief at once, could he be sure that he had a right to apply to some person familiar with the books and methods of consultation, who would not only furnish the material he seeks but would answer all his questions fully and readily. Without such aid, he must employ, if he is not disheartened in his quest, some patent solicitor at a considerable expense. To bring these books and their contents, subject to judicious rules, within the original reach of our mechanics and artisans should be the purpose of the Trustees; otherwise the use of the Library is subordinate to a mere exhibition of the extent of its possibilities.

We recommend, therefore, that in the new building a special curator be employed in the patent-room, who shall devote his whole time in promoting a ready and easy access for all inquirers to the manifold treasures of this department.

To carry this suggestion into effect would not involve a great expense, for it is necessary now to have a special attendant upon duty in this room. It is a question merely of additional salary to be paid to a competent person.

The area of the present Patent Library room is about 60×30 feet, a large portion of which is utilized as a reading-room for women, and is also intruded upon by the Lower Hall catalogue case, before which are usually found numerous applicants who block up at times the entrance to the room.

These obstructions, it is understood, are but temporary. In the new building the room assigned for the accommodation of the Patent Library has a floor area of $65\frac{1}{2} \times 33.10$, only a few feet larger than the present room — but it will be devoted solely to its special purpose.

With an enlarged area for the accommodation of the Library, and especially with increased facilities for the consultation of books, and with a generous service in expediting the search for special topics, the committee feel confident that the Patent Library cannot fail to invite a wider and a more satisfactory use of its contents.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

The committee to visit the Branch libraries have paid four official visits and many informal ones to the Branches and delivery stations during the year 1890. The delivery stations were included this year for the first time in the official visit and the committee recommend that they be henceforth examined with the Branches, that the entire work of the latter may thus be better understood. The stations echoed the call for new catalogues which was heard at the Branches, and the committee urge the importance of their speedy publication. It is a singular fact that the Branch using the catalogue of earliest date (1872, with a supplement in 1874) is that which shows the smallest circulation. The committee admit the popularity of the "finding lists," frequently published, at an expense of two cents to the purchaser. Nothing, however, can supersede the usefulness of a full catalogue, published at the expense of the city, and put within reach of every citizen.

The committee feel strongly the importance of the delivery stations, and commend them to the hearty support of the Trustees. They are glad to know that at least one has been established since the committee made their official visit, and that another has been called for by the City Council. They hope to see one in operation at the West End (where it may be possible to use the library of the West Church), and one at the Roxbury crossing. It will be noticed that what was once the city of Roxbury has no delivery station, and that there are none at the South and West Ends of the city proper. When the new building is opened, the need of stations in these districts will be imperative. The committee do not recommend the transfer of the South End Branch to any other locality, but rather the opening of a station nearer the old Roxbury line. The delivery stations, like an arterial system, bring not only the nearest branch, but the main library to the most remote sections of the city. They are established and maintained with comparative cheapness, and are a most powerful factor in spreading the benefits of the free public Library throughout the entire community. In selecting the rooms for such stations, the committee hope that a reading room for papers and periodicals may always be included, or that the citizens asking for such a station may help to contribute this essential feature.

The committee are not satisfied with the rooms assigned to the Dorchester Branch. They have reason to believe that the Trustees share this dissatisfaction, but feel that no improvement is possible at present. The committee have no

doubt that the use of the Library in that thickly settled neighborhood suffers by reason of the poor accommodation. Perhaps if it were known that the Library was seeking more commodious quarters, they would be offered. The committee recommend to the Trustees to make public their dissatisfaction with a building so unsuited to the wants of a large and intelligent section of the city.

The committee found the buildings to be generally in good repair, and in charge of intelligent and faithful officials. Certain improvements which seemed imperative were reported to the Trustees immediately after the committee's visit, at an informal meeting with several members of the Board. The repairs thus recommended were at once undertaken. The committee hope, therefore, that similar opportunities may be given to their successors of calling the attention of the Trustees to any pressing needs of the Branch libraries or buildings. The time between the official visit in the month of April and the publication of the annual report nearly a year later is too long, and should be broken, if necessary, by an informal report made whenever thought expedient by the committee.

Needed repairs, however, should not be delayed until called for by a visiting committee, but should be made whenever the Branch librarians direct the attention of the Trustees to their necessity. In the case of annexed districts, the same care should be taken of the library buildings which the original municipalities would have shown had annexation not occurred, and no repairs should be neglected whereby the buildings may deteriorate or the books in them be injured or destroyed. From the complaints and requests made to them last spring, the committee feel that there is a lack of proper communication between the Branches and the main building, possibly that the Trustees do not hear requests, which therefore fail of response. The committee, therefore, report these complaints and requests to the Trustees, with the hope that they may be carefully considered and acted upon. At the North and South Ends, South Boston, Dorchester, and Jamaica Plain, a want of proper ventilation was reported, which at South Boston the librarian herself has improved. At South Boston an urgent call is made for a higher class of children's books, such as would aid in school work, and for books of a more serious character for adults. The committee are glad to find here a call for other books than fiction. The poor quality of the gas was the subject of a complaint at Jamaica Plain. At Roxbury a railing would preserve the delivery table from the excessive zeal of youthful patrons. At the South End the "Scientific American" has been called for, and the committee repeat the recommendation made by their

predecessors. Dorchester calls for an agricultural paper, and Jamaica Plain wishes to offer its large German population a periodical in their native language. The South End Branch seeks police protection from five to eight every evening during the months of January, February, and March, because the Library is in a basement, and the interruptions caused by mischievous persons on the sidewalk seriously annoy the officials and readers.

These requests were made to this committee (who have no power to grant them), because the Branch librarians had made them elsewhere in vain, and thought that the committee's recommendation would assist them.

That such requests may in future reach the Trustees directly and quickly, the committee recommend that one of the higher officials of the Library service be detailed to make periodical visits to the Branches and stations, and report at least once a month upon the condition of each building, its furniture, heating, lighting, police supervision, or the want of it, and upon the administration, the efficiency of the Branches, and the fidelity and intelligence of the librarians and attendants. Such duties were once required of an official styled "the Inspector of Circulation." With the increase of stations, and the consequent widening of the Library's circulation and usefulness, the reëstablishment of such an office is imperatively demanded.

Were such an officer to visit the North End Library during the hours in which it is open, he would at once report that it is unfit for human occupancy, in spite of the repairs recently made at the urgent recommendation of the committee. In all their visits to this Library the committee have never met both attendants on duty at the same time, as one or the other has been absent on account of sickness incurred by living several hours each day in a fetid atmosphere, only improved by opening windows upon a back alley, concerning which the committee have asked the Trustees to complain to the Board of Health. The people of the North End have to some extent learned to stay away from a room with noxious odors without and a gas-consumed atmosphere within. The 1,400 books which this room contains, and which cannot be taken from it, had a maximum daily call of 522 in 1887 and 230 in 1889, the total use falling from 32,896 to 25,176. But this community is one towards which the educational character and appliances of the Library should be not only active but positively aggressive, and it cannot assume such a position in its present equipment. Immediate steps should be taken to procure other accommodations, with good air and light, and, in the meantime, the Library should be made a

Branch Library, to be opened at a much earlier hour, and supplied with books now lying unused elsewhere.

The Examining Committee of 1888 recommended an application to the Supreme Court for a modification of the terms of the will of the late Charlotte Harris, so that the income from that fund might not be limited to the purchase of books for the Charlestown Branch published prior to 1850. Your committee do not repeat that recommendation, because they believe that the income can properly be expended in accordance with the terms of the bequest. They call attention to the fact that it is not now so expended, but is allowed to accumulate. The purchase of books from this source, not including replacements and bound periodicals, has fallen from 159 in 1886 to 7 in 1890, to Dec. 1. The committee think that a large amount of literature of a date earlier than 1850 could be purchased with the income of this fund, that reprints of English and American authors could be kept up, and that the terms of the will could be observed and proper accessions be made to the Charlestown Branch. If any change in the provisions of the will were to be sought, it might possibly be that books purchased under it, of a permanent and valuable character, might be placed in the new building.

At the same time the committee notice that the purchase of books from the annual appropriation has also fallen off in this Branch to a remarkable degree, the total of 266 in 1889 being reduced to 123 in 1890 to Dec. 1. The committee hope that this great reduction does not indicate the policy of the Trustees towards the branch library system. Such a policy, if maintained, would prevent the proper development of the Branches and the delivery stations dependent upon them. In the purchase of books and the supply of duplicate copies to the Central and Branch libraries, the fact should be recognized that the books people wish to read are those of living, stirring interest at a particular time. To send applicants in East Boston or Jamaica Plain to the Central library for duplicate copies of such books is practically to disappoint them after a tedious delay. If the Library is to satisfy tax-payers it must offer, within reasonable limits, what tax-payers and their families demand, or they will look to other sources, to circulating libraries, which advertise the books that every one is talking about, or to mercantile houses, which offer at a nominal price pirated editions of such books printed on poor paper with worse type. Of course, it is impossible to satisfy all demands. Nevertheless, the committee feel that the free policy of previous years has yielded in the matter of duplicate copies to a closer practice to-day,

and that the pendulum has swung too far in the opposite direction, so that the number of duplicates purchased this year for the Central and Branch libraries, less than two hundred in all, is insufficient to satisfy the reasonable demands of the public.

The committee are aware that the current expenses of the Library, by evening and Sunday openings especially, are largely increased. To keep within the appropriation of the City Council, the Branch libraries may have suffered, and the Trustees may be excused for a policy which is but temporary and transitional. If the Branches or the Central libraries are deprived of their due supply of new books by reason of increased expenses, the fact should be brought to the attention of the City Council in the strongest manner possible that the appropriations made for the years 1889 and 1890 are entirely inadequate, and that thereby the Library suffers in one of its most vital points, in the care and support of the Branches. They should be made the supplying centres for the people in their homes, while the main building will become more and more the resort of students in special fields of investigation. The attention of the Trustees should first be directed to the purchase of fit and proper books in sufficient quantities, and then to the best means of placing them expeditiously in the hands of an eager and book-loving community.

In conclusion, the Examining Committee congratulate the city on the approach of the time when the new Library building shall be completed. In the new quarters, with ample accommodations for the librarian and his assistants, and with abundant space for a large number of readers and students, this usefulness of the Library and its consequent popularity will be enormously enlarged. In the new building it is intended that the various special libraries shall be placed in separate rooms. Not only will these treasures be secure in absolutely fire-proof quarters, they will also be so quartered that the generosity of many benefactors will be plainly manifested in the most desirable way, and it is to be hoped that this method will lead to further endowments of a most useful sort. The advantage to the student of finding so many valuable collections under one roof cannot be overestimated. The Barton Library, with its valuable Shakespeare volumes, and its general literary collections, the recent rich additions from the Barlow Library, acquired by the generosity of the city, the unequalled Prince Library, the Ticknor Library, the Parker Library, all combine to make a full collection of books of the most precious sort. Already they bring to Boston students from the remote parts

of the country. Possibly even those Bostonians who live in the suburbs will cease to complain of the hardship of going to the Central Library which contains stores that cannot possibly be duplicated. A great increase of readers may be looked for in the future; the worth of the Library will be more widely known, and, doubtless, with this knowledge will come even greater readiness to further its admirable and diverse aims, extending as they do in many directions, from guiding school children in wise and instructive reading to aiding scholars in their researches. Neither of these two extremes, it is to be supposed, is the sole aim of the Library; it is by meeting the wants of all that it has acquired its reputation, which, it is hoped, will ever be maintained.

ANNA S. AMORY,
SAMUEL ARTHUR BENT,
MARTIN BRIMMER,
HARRIETTE S. LAWRENCE,
ALICE LEE,
SAM'L F. MCCLEARY,
THOMAS SERGEANT PERRY.

REPORT ON MEDICAL BOOKS.

In previous years there has been some question among members of the Examining Committee as to the advisability of the purchase and provision of works of a strictly medical character. This year Dr. Harold Williams was appointed by the Trustees with the view of reviewing this question, and for the purpose of making an examination of the medical department of the Public Library.

Dr. Williams reports : —

There are now in the Public Library 15,000 volumes of a strictly medical character. All branches of medical literature are included in its catalogue ; even such special subjects as the "Eye" and "Ear" find a place upon its shelves.

In previous years the question has been asked, "Would not the money spent upon these works, if applied to general literature, be of greater assistance to the general public, and should not physicians and medical students apply to medical and other libraries rather than to tax the resources of the Public Library, and this, too, at the expense of general literature?"

At first sight this question seems difficult to answer, but a glance at the population of Boston and at the circulation of the Library shows that too little rather than too much is now done for the encouragement of the medical sciences. This department of the Library is chiefly used by physicians and dentists, by medical students, by nurses, pharmaceutical and other students, and by lawyers, chemists, instrument makers, engineers, etc.

The only other source of supply besides the Athenæum is the Boston Medical Library Association, a library free of access only to members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. But the Homœopathic, Eclectic, Botanic, Electric, Galvanic, Thompsonian, Hydropathic, Faith Curers, Indian, Christian Scientists and other followers of Galen, have no fountain of knowledge provided for them whereof to drink. Either they must purchase their reference books or go without. Few of us realize how large a proportion of our population these disciples of exclusive schools of medicine represent. It is estimated that there are no less than 1,100 physicians of exclusive systems now practising in Boston, a number which is yearly augmented by the restrictions relating to the practice of medicine from time to time adopted

by other States ; the 400 members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, who are entitled to the use of the Boston Medical Library, and we see that there are upwards of 1,500 "physicians" now practising in Boston. Added to these 1,500 "physicians," we have nearly 1,000 medical students, 600 registered nurses, 300 dentists. Supposing that 1,000 lawyers, chemists, instrument makers, druggists, and engineers make use of this library, we see that 4,500 persons depend upon it, more or less, for professional reference, or one per cent. of our population ! When we add to this list the invalids and their relatives and anxious friends, we see that the *demand* in this department should be very great. Turning then to the statistics of circulation, we find that this demand *is* very great ; that according to the figures of 1890, more than 13,000 medical books were taken from the shelves, nearly five per cent. of the total circulation of Bates Hall.

Thus having considered the demand, let us turn our attention to the supply.

There are in the Boston Public Library 15,000 books devoted to medical science, or about 5,000 less than the total number owned by the Boston Medical Library Association. On the other hand the number of medical journals taken by the Public Library is very much smaller than those of the Boston Medical Library, and perhaps wisely so.

Carrying our scrutiny farther, we find that the number of purchases of new books has been greatly restricted in recent years, and that many of the latest standard publications are not included in the Library, as for example : Sajous' Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences, Keating's Encyclopedia of the Diseases of Children, Hirst's American System of Obstetrics, Bradford and Lovett's Orthopædic Surgery. But these and other omissions could be remedied by a small outlay.

Thus, to capitulate, we find that a legitimate demand exists for medical books ; that this demand is well supplied by a large and valuable library which is as complete as could be expected or advised, with the exception of trifling and easily remedied deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted,

HAROLD WILLIAMS, M.D.

APPENDIXES.

1890.

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- I. EXTENT OF THE LIBRARY (BY YEARS).
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- III. INCREASE OF THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS.
- IV. BATES HALL CLASSIFICATIONS.
- V. GIVERS AND AMOUNT OF GIFTS.
- VI. CIRCULATION.
- VII. REGISTRATION OF APPLICANTS.
- VIII. READING.
- IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENT.
- X. LIBRARY FUNDS.
- XI. LIBRARY SERVICE.
- XII. LIST OF EXAMINING COMMITTEES FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.
- XIII. LIST OF TRUSTEES FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.

APPENDIX I.

EXTENT OF THE LIBRARY BY YEARS.

YEARS.		Total volumes in the Libraries.	YEARS.		Total volumes in the Libraries.	YEARS.		Total volumes in the Libraries.
1	1852-53	9,688	14	1865-66	130,678	27	1878-79	360,963
2	1853-54	16,221	15	1866-67	136,080	28	1879-80	377,225
3	1854-55	22,617	16	1867-68	144,002	29	1880-81	390,982
4	1855-56	28,080	17	1868-69	152,796	30	1881-82	404,221
5	1856-57	34,896	18	1869-70	160,573	31	1882-83	422,116
6	1857-58	70,851	19	1870-71	179,250	32	1883-84	438,594
7	1858-59	78,043	20	1871-72	192,958	33	1884-85	453,947
8	1859-60	85,031	21	1872-73	209,456	34	1885	460,993
9	1860-61	97,386	22	1873-74	260,550	35	1886	479,421
10	1861-62	105,034	23	1874-75	276,918	36	1887	492,956
11	1862-63	110,563	24	1875-76	297,873	37	1888	505,872
12	1863-64	116,934	25	1876-77	312,010	38	1889	520,508
13	1864-65	123,016	26	1877-78	345,734	39	1890	536,027

NOTE. — Many thousand pamphlets have been added but are not included in the above figures. When bound they are regarded and counted as volumes.

In the various reading-rooms are the current numbers of 960 periodicals.

VOLUMES IN LIBRARY AND BRANCHES DEC. 31, 1890.

Central Library.	Bates Hall	333,273	East Boston	12,616
	Duplicate room	16,652	South Boston	13,088
	Lower Hall	44,854	Charlestown	27,179
	Total, Central Library .	394,779	Brighton	14,099
Roxbury Branch.			Dorchester	15,338
	Fellowes Athenæum . . .	15,826	South-End	10,894
	City part	15,901	Jamaica Plain	11,579
	Total, Roxbury Branch,	31,727	West Roxbury delivery . . .	3,313
			North-End	1,415

APPENDIX II.

VOLUMES IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF BATES HALL.

	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1885 Dec. 31.	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
Patent library . .	3,066	3,142	3,259	3,382	3,478	3,513	3,641	3,796	3,965	4,097	4,218
Bowditch library,	3,152	3,224	3,456	3,701	3,854	3,933	4,510	4,706	4,935	5,225	5,348
Parker library . .	12,337	12,363	13,952	13,971	14,024	14,057	14,069	14,077	14,104	14,112	14,114
Princee library . .	2,230	2,274	2,327	2,397	2,510	2,581	2,706	2,775	2,824	2,905	2,935
Ticknor library . .	5,454	5,463	5,507	5,544	5,724	5,731	5,764	5,790	5,877	5,923	5,966
Barton library . .	14,360	13,487	13,610	13,610	13,642	13,652	13,800	13,841	13,755	13,724	13,735
Franklin library . .	202	240	292	357	378	382	382	403	416	427	446
Thayer library	893	920	1,085	1,123	1,175	1,217	1,280	1,368	1,427	1,500	
John A. Lewis library											633

APPENDIX III.

NET INCREASE OF THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS.

	1885 (\$ mos.)	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
Bates Hall	4,882	9,879	8,671	9,733	11,857	13,518
Lower Hall	367	866	1,543	874	710	loss 50
Duplicate-room	377	loss 59	443	loss 52	330	419
East Boston branch	85	236	158	170	63	58
South Boston branch	112	303	310	284	159	115
Roxbury branch	122	362	262	280	199	146
Fellowes Athenæum	209	4,748	358	390	397	361
Charlestown branch	343	680	443	145	loss 70	233
Brighton branch	64	186	146	46	130	91
Dorchester branch	276	590	546	423	309	269
Jamaica Plain branch	167	355	417	335	294	150
South-End branch	20	loss 26	204	260	248	187
West Roxbury branch	10	13	25	20	6	10
North-End branch	12	295	9	8	4	12
Total	7,046	18,428	13,535	12,916	14,636	15,519
		Added.	Deducted, condemned, transferred or lost.			
Bates Hall		13,525	7	{ Net gain, in detail, as above.		
Duplicate-room		563	144			
Lower Hall and branches		4,747	3,165			

APPENDIX IV.

BATES HALL CLASSIFICATIONS.

(Representing books loaned only.)

CLASS No.	CLASSES.	GENERAL LIBRARY.										SPECIAL LIBRARIES.						Total, including special libraries.
		Located 1890.	Condensed and transferred. Deducted.	Total in general library Jan. 1, 1891.	1858	1861	1866	1871	1873	1875	1880	Patent library.						
					Bowditch library.	Parker library.	Prince library.	Thayer library.	Barton library.*	Thayer library.	Franklin library.							
I.	Cyclopædias, etc.	61		1,918	249	322	6		21							2,516		
II.	Bibliography and literary history	461		8,939	35	615	5	278	689	2	8					10,571		
III.	General history, biography, travel, and geography	360		9,806	17	707	55	23	135	75						10,828		
IV.	American history, geography, biography, travel, and polite literature	2,831		43,185	107	1,176	1,250	353	954	105	348	445				47,923		
V.	English history, etc.	1,201		32,895	77	858	131	21	3,201	697	15	3,374				41,299		
VI.	French history, etc.	574		17,291	60	520	7	57	2,469	224	6	324				29,958		
VII.	Italian history, etc.	243		9,361	11	326	2	31	337	62		3				10,123		
VIII.	German history, etc.	364	3	11,236	9	1,423	8	26	254	44		49				13,049		
IX.	Greek, Latin, and philology	263		6,986	9	1,181	196	132	617	15	3					9,139		
X.	Spanish and Portuguese history and literature	80		1,888	22	95		3,997	200	14						6,216		
XI.	Other history, geography, biography, travel, and literature	476		9,557	2	399	1	4	220	7		16				10,206		
XII.	Periodicals and transactions	856		23,674	1,339	787	5	260	471	26						26,592		
XIII.	Theology, ecclesiastical history, etc.	1,122	1	24,993	147	3,492	1,130	381	244	41	10					30,438		
XIV.	Metaphysics and social science	664		11,523	6	1,390	52	120	130	5	28					13,224		
XV.	Jurisprudence	161		5,726	3	307	13	60	28			7				6,144		
XVI.	Political economy	297		4,154	65	98		24	17							4,358		
XVII.	Medical science	452		14,988	3	75	23	5	26		3					15,123		
XVIII.	Natural history and science	388	1	10,499	15	170	1	31	89	2						10,807		
XIX.	Mathematics and physical science	705		13,051	3,152	136	24	63	47	1	19					16,493		
XX.	Useful arts	389		7,739	5	13		34	16		4					7,802		
XXI.	Fine arts	460		9,062		54	1	14	43	179						9,353		
XXII.	Bound volumes of miscellaneous pamphlets		2	459	13				73							545		
XXIII.	Bound volumes of manuscripts			81	2		24	42	89		2					240		
XXIV.	Shakespeare						1		3,365	11						3,377		
XXV.	Books for the blind			359												359		
Totals		12,408	7	279,361	5,348	14,114	2,935	5,966	13,735	1,500	446	4,218				327,623		

EXPLANATION.—Class III. includes general history, etc., when embracing several countries, and collected works of historians.

Class IV. includes the collected works of American writers, and what of American literature is sometimes termed polygraphy.

Classes V., VI., VII., and VIII. have the same scope for the respective countries that Class IV. has for America. Class VIII. includes also Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian nations.

Class XIV. includes political science and ethics, applied and unapplied, education, phrenology, etc.

Class XIX. includes mechanics, military and naval arts, agriculture, domestic arts, etc.

Class XXIV. does not include the Shakespeare collection of the general library.

The subdivisions of classes are kept in figures by themselves, so that for purposes of enumeration or learning percentage of use, it is practicable at any time to get exact figures upon the subdivisions; as also upon such points as biography, travel, and voyages, etc., by summing the results of the ranges devoted to them in the several alcoves.

NOTE.—The dates given in the special libraries column show the year when they were acquired by the library.

* Includes all books in room G, — 12,108 of them belonging to the Barton library, as originally shelved there.

APPENDIX V.

GIFTS, JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1890.

Givers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,081
Volumes	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,129
Pamphlets	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,682

GIVERS.	Vols.	Pphs.
Abbott, J. J. C., <i>Ottawa, Can.</i>		7
Abbott, S. A. B. maps	19	28
Abbott Academy, <i>Andover, Mass.</i>		1
Abellán, Francisco Cubillos, <i>Buenos Ayres</i>		2
Adams, Henry C.	1	
Adams Nervine Asylum		1
Agassiz, Alexander, <i>Harvard College, Cambridge</i>		1
Agent General for Victoria, <i>London, England</i>	4	
Agricultural Experiment Station, <i>Mansfield, Conn.</i>		1
Agricultural Experiment Station, <i>Auburn, Ala.</i>		2
Agricultural and Mechanical College, <i>Auburn, Ala.</i>		5
Alabama State Bar Association, <i>Montgomery</i>		1
Albree, John jr.	2	
Alcott, Wm. P., <i>Boxford</i>	3	7
Alden, John E.		7
Alexander, S. B.	2	
Allen, G. W.	1	
Allen, Willard S.	25	16
Alliance News, The, <i>Manchester, England</i>		12
Almy, Francis		1
Alumni Association, <i>Philadelphia College of Pharmacy</i>		1
Amaron, Calvin E., <i>Springfield</i>		16
American Academy of Arts and Sciences	1	
American Association for the Advancement of Science, <i>Salem</i>	1	
American Baptist Publication Society, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>		4
American Bar Association, <i>Baltimore, Md.</i>	1	
American Bar Association, <i>Philadelphia</i>	1	
American Bible Society		1
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,		1
American Congregational Association		1
American Economic Association, <i>Baltimore, Md.</i>		1
American Entomologist Society, <i>Philadelphia</i>	2	
American Historical Association, <i>Baltimore, Md.</i>	1	
American Home Missionary Society, <i>New York City</i>		2
American Institute of Electrical Engineers, <i>New York City</i>	1	7
American Institute of Homœopathy, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>	1	
American Institute of Mining Engineers, <i>New York City</i>	1	
American Iron and Steel Association, <i>Philadelphia</i>	2	1
American Philosophical Society, <i>Philadelphia</i>	2	
American Society of Civil Engineers, <i>New York City</i>	2	7
American Society of Railroad Superintendents	3	

GIVERS.	Vols.	Pphs.
American Surgical Association, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>	1	
Ames, John N., <i>Chelsea</i>		1
Amherst College, <i>Amherst, Mass.</i>	1	2
Ammen, Daniel, <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	5	
Amory, Robert	3	
Andover Theological Library Seminary, <i>Andover, Mass.</i> , Andrew, John F.		1 1
Andrews, Charles M., <i>Bryn Mawr, Pa.</i>	1	
Anonymous	50	289
Appleton, D.	7	
Appleton, Nathan	3	1
Appleton, William S.	1	1
Apprentices' Library, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>		1
Archæological Institute of America, <i>Cambridgz, Mass.</i> . .		2
Arnold, Howard P.	2	
Arnoux, William N., <i>New York City</i>	1	
Art Club, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>		3
Associated Charities	47	
Association of American Physicians	1	
Astor Library		1
Athenæum of Philadelphia	1	
Atkinson, W. P.	192	820
Averill, Russell	3	
Ayer, J. C., & Co., <i>Lowell</i>	1	
Babcock, James F.		1
Baker, B. F., <i>Brookline</i>	3	
Balfour, David, <i>Charlestown</i>	2	
Ballantyne, John F., <i>Chicago, Ill.</i>	1	
Ballou, Maturin M.	3	
Baudelot, Max, <i>Chicago, Ill.</i>	1	
Bangs, Edward, <i>Wareham, Mass.</i>	1	
Barbour, Edmund D.	1	
Barker, Henry R., <i>Providence</i>		1
Barnard Memorial		6
Barnes, Lemuel C., <i>Newton Centre</i>		1
Barnwell, James G., <i>Philadelphia</i>		1
Barrett & Spencer, <i>Germanstown, Pa.</i>	2	
Barry, Charles A.	1	
Batchellor, A. S., <i>Littleton, N.H.</i>		1
Bates, Wm. C., <i>Newton, Mass.</i>		5
Baxter, James P.	1	
Bayard, T. F., <i>Wilmington, Del.</i>	1	1
Beer, Wm., <i>Topeka, Kan.</i>	1	
Benét, S. V.	1	
Bennett, Edmund H., <i>Taunton, Mass.</i>	1	
Bent, Samuel Arthur	9	
Benton, Josiah H., <i>jr.</i>		3
Berea College, <i>Berea, Ky.</i>		1
Biblioteca Nacional, <i>Argentine Republic, S.A.</i>	13	
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrali di Firenze, <i>Italy</i>	1	
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele di Roma,	1	
Biblioteca Nazionale di Palermo, <i>Sicily</i>	1	1
Bibliothèque Royale, <i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>	1	
Bigelow, Henry J.		424
Billings, Frank S., <i>Chicago</i>		1
Billings, Frederick, <i>Woodstock, Vt.</i>		1
Birmingham, <i>England</i> , Public Library	1	1
Bissel, Artemus, <i>New York City</i>		4
Blaine, James G., <i>Washington, D.C.</i>		2

GIVERS.	Vols.	Pphs.
Blaisdell, F. C.		1
Blaisdell, J. J., <i>Beloit, Wis.</i>		1
Blodgett, Albert N.	1	
Blumenberg & Floersheim, <i>N. Y.</i>	1	
Board of Education of the City of New York	4	
Board of Railroad Commissioners, <i>Topeka, Kan.</i>	4	
Board of State Charities and Corrections, <i>Providence, R. I.</i>		1
Board of Trade, <i>Hartford, Ct.</i>		1
Bonaventure, F., <i>New York City</i>	1	
Boston, Board of Health		1
—— City Auditor	6	
—— City Engineer		1
—— City Messenger	210	6
—— Inspector of Milk and Vinegar	1	
—— Mayor's Office	7	
—— Overseers of the Poor	2	
—— Park Commissioners	2	8
—— School Committee		7
—— Water Board	3	
Boston Art Club	1	
Boston Athenæum	1	
Boston Christian Scientist Publishing Society	1	
Boston Fatherless and Widows' Society		21
Boston Fish Bureau		6
Boston Latin School		1
Boston Lunatic Hospital		1
Boston & Maine R.R.		1
Boston Museum	1	
Boston Provident Association		6
Boston Society of Civil Engineers	1	
Boston Society of Natural History	1	3
Boston University	1	1
Boston Young Men's Christian Association	1	4
Bostonian Society		1
Boutell, Lewis Henry, <i>Chicago, Ill.</i>	1	
Boutwell, Francis M., <i>Groton, Mass.</i>		1
Boutinot, J. G., <i>Ottawa, Canada</i> 1 paper		
Bourke, John G., <i>Washington D.C.</i>	2	2
Bowditch, Wm. I.	1	
Bowdoin College, <i>Brunswick, Me.</i>		2
Bradlee, Caleb D., lot of broadsides and newspapers, and photographs	230	1,683
Bradlee, N. J., <i>Mrs., Roxbury</i>	24	
Bradner, L., jr., <i>New Haven, Conn.</i>		3
Branner, J. C., <i>Little Rock, Arkansas</i>	2	1
Bramhwaite, R. W., <i>Rickmansworth, Herts, England</i>		1
Bridges, Robert, <i>London, England</i>	1	
Brimmer, Martin		1
Brinton, Daniel G., <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>	1	1
Bristol County Agricultural Society, <i>Taunton, Mass.</i>		1
British and Foreign Unitarian Association, <i>London, Eng.</i>		32
Brockhoven, John A., <i>Cincinnati, O.</i>	1	
Brookline Public Library		1
Brooklyn Institute, <i>Brooklyn, N. Y.</i>	2	2
Brooklyn Library, <i>Brooklyn, N. Y.</i>		1
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White, James C.	2	
White, John S., <i>New York City</i>		1
White, S. V., <i>Brooklyn, N. Y.</i>	1	
Whitehouse, Cope, <i>London, England</i>	map	
Whitman, W. A.	1	
Whitmore, W. H.	8	
Whitney, J. L.	3	19
Whitney, W. L., <i>Pottsville, Pa.</i>	1	
Whittemore, Henry, <i>New York City</i>	1	
Willard, Miss Frances E., <i>Evanston, Ill.</i>		12
Williams, B. S., & Son		3
Williams, Henry W.		1
Williston Seminary, <i>Easthampton</i>		1
Wilmington Institute, <i>Wilmington, Del.</i>		1
Winchester Home Corporation, <i>Charlestown</i>		1
Winchester Public Library, <i>Winchester, Mass.</i>		2
Winlock, William C., <i>Washington, D. C.</i>	1	
Winsor, Justin	manuscript	1
Winthrop, Robert C.		4
Winthrop Training School for Teachers, <i>Columbia, S. C.</i>		2
Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, <i>Milwaukee, Wis.</i>	1	
Wisconsin, State Historical Society, <i>Madison, Wis.</i>	1	4
Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, <i>New York City</i>		1
Wood, Will C.		4
Woodbury, C. J. H.		2
Woodruff, Milford, <i>Salt Lake City</i>	2	
Worcester, William, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i>	2	
Worcester Free Public Library	1	2
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, <i>Worcester, Mass.</i>		3
Wright, J. O., <i>New York City</i>	1	
Wyeth, E. A.	277	11
Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, <i>Wilkes-barre, Pa.</i>		1
Yale College, Observatory, <i>New Haven, Conn.</i>		1
Yale University		1
Young Men's Dramatic Club of Massachusetts		1
Young Men's Christian Association		1
Zioba, Mathias		1

APPENDIX VI.

CIRCULATION.

YEAR.	BATES HALL.						LOWER HALL.					READING-ROOM.		EAST BOSTON.				
	Total circulation.																	
	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Daily average.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.
1889	1,775,494	64,261	132,840	217,101	716	1,272	187,165	00,452	247,617	820	1,566	362,845	1,025	68,343	59,367	127,712	423	660
1890	1,875,411	73,955	201,305	273,260	773	1,607	181,246	74,471	255,771	841	1,525	369,708	1,038	71,468	60,823	132,291	435	759

YEAR.	SOUTH BOSTON.					ROXBURY.					CHARLESTOWN.					BRIGHTON.				
	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.
1889	109,231	67,800	177,031	585	849	90,404	41,382	131,786	436	758	62,400	36,594	99,084	328	540	17,338	3,629	20,967	69	196
1890	97,740	74,140	171,880	653	895	88,919	38,558	127,477	457	790	63,779	43,798	109,577	361	608	19,420	2,009	21,519	71	193

YEAR.	DORCHESTER.					SOUTH END.					JAMAICA PLAIN.					NORTH END.					LOWER MILLS.	
	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Hall use.	Total.	Daily average.	Largest daily use.	Home use.	Daily average.
1889	70,728	32,157	102,885	345	605	77,657	83,347	161,004	533	825	47,300	19,438	66,738	221	463	33,849	112	230	22,872	76		
1890	70,860	24,388	95,248	313	616	87,260	90,963	178,229	586	804	53,262	17,585	70,847	233	446	44,893	157	327	22,711	75		

In 1889, of 1,775,494 volumes delivered to borrowers one in 40,352 was lost; in 1890, of 1,875,411 volumes delivered to borrowers one in 21,044 was lost.

The Dorchester branch was closed four working days in 1890. The Roxbury branch was closed 25 working days in 1890; the South Boston branch 41, and the North-End branch 16.

APPENDIX VII.

REGISTRATION.

The first registration, 1854-58, had 17,066 names; the second, 1859-67, had 52,829 names; the third, 1868 to April 30, 1886, had 227,581 names.					
	1858	1867	1886	1889	1890
Central Library	8,997	9,733	7,752	7,133	6,370
East Boston branch	1,307	1,117	877	1,065	896
South Boston branch	1,862	1,781	1,395	2,156	1,435
Roxbury branch	1,372	1,585	1,260	1,769	1,371
Charlestown branch	630	1,623	860	762	735
Brighton branch	323	365	270	277	286
Dorchester branch	1,405	1,231	815	1,005	827
South-End branch	1,484	1,511	1,040	1,740	1,470
Jamaica Plain branch	874	926	705	892	785
Totals	18,254	19,872	14,974	16,799	14,175

APPENDIX VIII.

READING.

	Bates Hall.	Lower Hall and Branches.
I. Fiction and books for the young . . . . .	.....	65
II. History, biography, and travel	47	15
III. Arts and science	44	6
IV. Periodicals	6	6
V. Miscellaneous	3	8
Totals	100	100

APPENDIX IX.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

GENERAL LIBRARY ACCOUNTS.	Expended, 1890.
Binding materials	\$1,186 70
Binding books	1,715 64
Books, City appropriation	\$19,623 70
Special appropriation for purchases made	
at the Barlow sale	20,000 00
Income from Trust funds	4,536 51
	<hr/> 44,160 21
Periodicals	2,871 35
Expense	3,822 38
Fuel	2,510 88
Furniture, etc.	1,199 11
Gas	4,037 17
Printing and cataloguing	9,549 73
Stationery	1,465 07
Salaries	87,918 99
Transportation, postage, etc.	2,475 95
Rents	5,600 69
Repairs	2,570 68
Electric lighting	3,089 18
Total	<hr/> \$174,173 73 <hr/>

NOTE.—The cost of maintaining the branches, \$41,735.69, makes part of the general items of the several appropriations.

Receipts from fines and sales of catalogues, \$3,473.05.

APPENDIX X. LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS.—INVESTED IN CITY OF BOSTON BONDS.

GIVER.	Amount.	When delivered.	No. of Bond.	When due.	Income.	Provisions.
1 Joshua Bates	\$50,000 00	March, 1853	1,727	April, 1894	\$3,000	To buy "books of permanent value."
2 Jonathan Phillips	{ 20,000 00 10,000 00	{ April, 1861 April, 1853	{ 352 1,725	{ Jan'y, 1906 April, 1894	{ 1,800 600	{ "To the maintenance of a free public library." "Purchase of books."
3 Abbott Lawrence	10,000 00	May, 1860	281	July, 1905	600	Books having a permanent value.
4 Charlotte Harris	10,000 00	August, 1877	2,579	Oct., 1897	600	Books for Charlestown branch, published before 1850.
5 Henry L. Pierce	5,000 00	December, 1873	1,567	Jan'y, 1894	300	"Books of permanent value for the Bates Hall."
6 Mary P. Towsead	4,000 00	April, 1879	2,950	April, 1899	200	Books five years old in some one edition.
7 George Ticknor	4,000 00	April, 1871	10,480	April, 1891	240	Books in Spanish and Portuguese five years old in some one edition.
8 John P. Bigelow	1,000 00	August, 1850	1,726	April, 1894	60	Purchase of books.
9 Franklin Club	1,000 00	June, 1853	1,224	Jan'y, 1914	40	Books of permanent value, preferably "books on government and political economy."
10 Samuel A. Green	{ 1,500 00 500 00	{ November, 1878 April, 1884	{ 3,714 1,243	{ Oct., 1900 April, 1914	{ 75 20	{ Books relating to American history.
11 South Boston	100 00	September, 1879	5,596	July, 1915	4	For benefit of South Boston branch.
12 Arthur Scholfield	50,000 00	December, 1883	1,223	Oct., 1913	2,000	To be used for books of permanent value.
13 Joseph Scholfield	11,800 00	July, 1900	6,300	July, 1920	472	
14 Thomas B. Harris	1,000 00	April, 1884	1,244	April, 1914	40	For benefit of Charlestown branch.
15 Daniel Trendwell	{ 2,000 00 1,700 00 1,400 00	{ October, 1885 November, 1889	{ 1,782 1,486 1,754	{ April, 1916 Oct., 1917 Nov. 15, 1919	{ 197 197	{ To be expended by the Trustees in such manner as they may deem for the best interest of the Library.
16 Edward Lawrence	500 00	May, 1886	1,383	April, 1916	20	"To hold and apply the income and so much of the principal as they [the Trustees] may choose to the purchase of special books of reference to be kept and used only at the Charlestown Branch of said Public Library."
17 J. Ingersoll Bowditch	10,000 00	January, 1890	1,816	Jan'y, 1920	350	For "the purchase of books of permanent value and authority in mathematics and astronomy," to be added to the Bowditch collection.
	\$195,500 00				\$10,018	

MEMORANDA.

- (1) Joshua Bates, born near Boston, 1788, died in London, as the head of the house of Baring Brothers & Co., 1864. In addition to this fund, he gave \$50,000 worth of books to the Library.
- (2) The sum of \$10,000 was a gift in Mr. Phillips' lifetime. The other \$30,000 was bequeathed by his will, dated 28th of Sept., 1860. He died 22th of July, 1860, aged 82.
- (3) Mr. Lawrence died in August, 1885, and this sum was a bequest.
- (4) The bequest of Charlotte Harris to the Charlestown branch. With it her private library was also given.
- (5) The donation of Mayor Pierce, previous to his retirement from office. The principal or interest may be expended as is deemed best.
- (6) This fund was received from William Minot and William Minot, Jr., executors of Miss Towsead's will, to whom discretionary power in making the gift was given by the will.
- (7) This bequest accompanied the testamentary gift of his Spanish and Portuguese library. It required that \$1,000, at least, shall be spent every five years for twenty-five years, for the addition of books to said library.
- (8) This fund was a sum intended for a testimonial to Mr. Bigelow on retiring from the mayoralty, and was transferred by him to this purpose.
- (9) Given by the Trustees of the Franklin Club, under the authority given them at the dissolution of that literary association.

STOCKS OTHER THAN CITY BONDS HELD BY TREADWELL FUND, PUBLIC LIBRARY.

SHARES.	Par Value per Share.	Value per Share as received from Trustee.	Total as Received from Trustee.	Income.	Remarks.
15 B. & A. R.R. Co.	\$100 00	\$179 00	\$2,685 00	* \$128 00	
6 B. & Prov. R.R. Co.	100 00	179 50	1,077 00	60 00	
9 Fitchburg R.R. Co.	100 00	115 00	1,062 00	48 00	
1 Vt. & Mass. R.R. Co.	100 00	133 00	133 00	6 00	
18 Cambridge Lyceum	20 00	30 00	540 00	25 20	
Cash			88 00	Less 88 00	
				\$5,497 00	Less paid May 10, 1886, to City Collector, per order of Board of Trustees of Public Library.
1 B. & A. R.R. Co.	100 00			100 00	

* Includes income on the one share below.

TREADWELL FUND. — By the will of the late DANIEL TREADWELL, of Cambridge, late Rumford Professor in Harvard College, who died Feb. 27, 1872, he left the residue of his estate, after payment of debts, legacies, etc., in trust to his executors, to hold during the life of his wife for her benefit, and after her decease to divide the residue then remaining in the hands of the trustees as therein provided, and convey one-fifth part thereof to the Trustees of the Public Library of the city of Boston.

The City Council have accepted said bequest and authorized the Trustees of the Public Library to receive the same, and invest it in the City of Boston Bonds, the income of which is to be expended by said Trustees in such manner as they may deem for the best interests of the library.

Invested in the City of Boston Four per cent. Bonds . . .	\$3,700 00
“ “ “ Three and one-half per cent. Bonds, 1,400 00	
“ 16 shares B. & A. R.R. Co. Stock, par value \$100 each, 1,600 00	
“ 6 shares B & P R.R. Co. Stock, par value \$100 each, 600 00	
“ 9 shares Fitchburg R.R. Co. Stock, par value \$100 each, 900 00	
“ 1 share Vt. & Mass. R.R. Co. Stock, par value \$100 each, 100 00	
“ 18 shares Cambridge Lyceum Stock, par value \$20 each, 360 00	
	<u>\$8,660 00</u>

CHARLOTTE HARRIS FUND. — Bequest of CHARLOTTE HARRIS, late of Boston, the object of which is stated in the following extract from her will: —

“I give to the Charlestown Public Library \$10,000, to be invested on interest, which interest is to be applied to the purchase of books published before 1850. I also give to said Public Library my own private library, and the portrait of my grandfather, Richard Devens.” Bequest accepted by City Council, July 31, 1877.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . .	<u>\$10,000 00</u>
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THOMAS B. HARRIS FUND. — Bequest of THOMAS B. HARRIS, late of Charlestown, for the benefit of the Charlestown Public Library.

Invested in one City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, for . . .	<u>\$1,000 00</u>
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SCHOLFIELD FUND. — Bequest of the late ARTHUR SCHOLFIELD, who died in New York, Jan. 17, 1883. The interest to be paid to certain heirs during their lives, and then to be used for the purchase of books of permanent value. The last heir, Joseph Scholfield, died Nov. 18, 1889, and by his will bequeathed to the City of Boston the sum of \$11,800, which represents the income of said fund, received by him up to the time of his death, to be added to the fund given by his brother. Invested in

One City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, for . . .	\$50,000 00
“ “ “ . . .	11,800 00
	<u>\$61,800 00</u>

GREEN FUND. — Donations of Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN of \$2,000, the income of which is to be expended for the purchase of books relating to American history. Invested in

Two City of Boston Five per cent. Bonds, for . . .	\$1,500 00
One City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, for . . .	500 00
	<u>\$2,000,00</u>

SOUTH BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY TRUST FUND. — Donation of a citizen of South Boston, the income of which is to be expended for the benefit of the South Boston Branch Library.

Invested in one City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, for . . .	<u>\$100 00</u>
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RECAPITULATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS.

Scholfield bequests	\$61,800 00
Bates donation	50,000 00
Phillips bequest	20,000 00
Bowditch bequest	10,000 00
Phillips donation	10,000 00
Charlotte Harris bequest	10,000 00
Abbott Lawrence bequest	10,000 00
Pierce donation	5,000 00
Townsend bequest	4,000 00
Ticknor bequest	4,000 00
Treadwell bequest	8,660 00
Green donations	2,000 00
Bigelow donation	1,000 00
Thomas B. Harris bequest	1,000 00
Franklin Club donation	1,000 00
Edward Lawrence bequest	500 00
South Boston Branch Library Trust Fund	100 00
Invested funds	<u>\$199,060 00</u>

LIBRARY TRUST FUNDS.

BIGELOW FUND. — This is a donation made by the late JOHN P. BIGELOW, in August, 1850, when Mayor of the city.

The income from this fund is to be appropriated to the purchase of books for the increase of the library.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond for . . . \$1,000 00

Payable to the Chairman of the Committee on the Public Library for the time being.

BATES FUND. — This is a donation made by the late JOSHUA BATES, of London, in March, 1853.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond for . . . \$50,000 00

“The income only of this fund is to be, each and every year, expended in the purchase of such books of permanent value and authority as may be found most needful and most useful.” Payable to the Mayor of the City for the time being.

BOWDITCH FUND. — This is the bequest of J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH.

Invested in one City of Boston Three and one-half per cent.

Bond \$10,000 00

The whole income in each and every year to be expended in the purchase of books of permanent value and authority in mathematics and astronomy.

PHILLIPS FUND. — This is a Donation made by the late JONATHAN PHILLIPS, of Boston, in April, 1853.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . . \$10,000 00

The interest on this fund is to be used exclusively for the purchase of books for said library.

Also, a bequest by the same gentleman, in his will, dated 20th September, 1849.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . . \$20,000 00

The interest on which is to be annually devoted to the maintenance of a Free Public Library.

Both of these items are payable to the Mayor of the City for the time being.

ABBOTT LAWRENCE FUND. — This is the bequest of the late ABBOTT LAWRENCE, of Boston.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . . \$10,000 00

The interest on this fund is to be exclusively appropriated for the purchase of books for the said Library, having a permanent value.

EDWARD LAWRENCE FUND. — This is the bequest of the late EDWARD LAWRENCE, of Charlestown. The following clause from his will explains its purpose: —

"To hold and apply the income, and so much of the principal as they may choose, to the purchase of special books of reference, to be kept and used only at the Charlestown branch of said Public Library."

Invested in one City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, due
April 1, 1916 \$500 00

PIERCE FUND. — This is a donation made by HENRY L. PIERCE, Mayor of the city, Nov. 29, 1873, and accepted by the City Council, Dec. 27, 1873.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . . \$5,000 00

TOWNSEND FUND. — This is a donation from William Minot and William Minot, Jr., executors of the will of MARY P. TOWNSEND, of Boston, at whose disposal she left a certain portion of her estate in trust, for such charitable and public institutions as they might think meritorious. Said executors accordingly selected the Public Library of the City of Boston as one of such institutions, and attached the following conditions to the legacy: "The income only shall, in each and every year, be expended in the purchase of books for the use of the library; each of which books shall have been published in some one edition at least five years at the time it may be so purchased."

Invested in one City of Boston Five per cent. Bond, for . . . \$4,000 00

TICKNOR BEQUEST. — By the will of the late GEORGE TICKNOR, of Boston, he gave to the City of Boston, on the death of his wife, all his books and manuscripts in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, about four thousand volumes, and also the sum of four thousand dollars. After the receipt of said sum, the city is required to spend not less than one thousand dollars in every five years during the twenty-five years next succeeding (*i.e.*, the income of four thousand dollars, at the rate of five per cent. per annum), in the purchase of books in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and literature. At the end of twenty-five years the income of the said sum is to be expended annually in the purchase of books of permanent value, either in the Spanish or Portuguese language, or in such other languages as may be deemed expedient by those having charge of the library. The books bequeathed or purchased are always to be freely accessible for reference or study, but are not to be loaned for use outside of the library building. If these bequests are not accepted by the city, and the trusts and conditions faithfully executed, the books, manuscripts, and money are to be given to the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

In order that the city might receive the immediate benefit of this contribution, Anna Ticknor, widow of the donor, relinquished her right to retain during her life the books and manuscripts, and placed them under the control of the city, the City Council having previously accepted the bequests in accordance with the terms and conditions of said will, and the Trustees of the Public Library received said bequests on behalf of the city, and made suitable arrangements for the care and custody of the books and manuscripts.

Invested in one City of Boston Six per cent. Bond, for . . . \$4,000 00

FRANKLIN CLUB FUND. — This is a donation made in June, 1863, by a literary association of young men in Boston, who, at the dissolution of the association, authorized its trustees, Thomas Minns, John J. French, and J. Franklin Reed, to dispose of the funds on hand in such a manner as to them should seem judicious. They elected to bestow it on the Public Library, attaching to it the following conditions: "In trust that the income, but the income only, shall, year by year, be expended in the purchase of books of permanent value for the use of the free Public Library of the city, and, as far as practicable, of such a character as to be of special interest to young men." The Trustees expressed a preference for books relative to Government and Political Economy.

Invested in one City of Boston Four per cent. Bond, for . . . \$1,000 00

APPENDIX XI.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

Executive department	7	South Boston branch	6
Catalogue department	14	Roxbury branch	6
Book department	8	Charlestown branch	6
Bates Hall circulation department	18	Brighton branch	3
Lower Hall circulation department	21	Dorchester branch	5
Janitor's department	4	South-End branch	6
Bindery	8	Jamaica Plain branch	4
East Boston branch	5	North-End branch	3
		Deliveries	9
		Total	133

At some of the branch libraries occasional extra assistance is employed when necessary.

AGENTS.

Messrs. W. B. Clarke & Co., and Mr. Carl Schoenhof, *Boston*.
 Mr. Edward G. Allen (for English patents), *London*.
 Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Limited, *London*.
 Deuerlich'sche Buchhandlung, *Göttingen*.

LOCATION OF THE BRANCH LIBRARIES AND DELIVERY STATIONS.

Allston delivery station, 26 Franklin street, Allston.
 Ashmont delivery station, 25 Argyle street.
 Brighton branch, Holton Library building, Rockland street.
 Charlestown branch, old City Hall, City square, Charlestown.
 Dorchester branch, Arcadia, *cor.* Adams street.
 Dorchester Station delivery, 1 Milton avenue.
 East Boston branch, old Lyman School building, Meridian street.
 Jamaica Plain branch, Curtis Hall, Centre street, Jamaica Plain.
 Lower Mills delivery station, Washington street, *near* River street.
 Mattapan delivery station, River, *cor.* Oakland street.
 Mount Bowdoin delivery station, Washington, *cor.* Eldon street.
 Neponset delivery station, Wood's block.
 North End branch, *cor.* Salem and North Bennet streets.
 Roslindale delivery station, Florence, *cor.* Ashland street.
 Roxbury branch, 46 Millmont street.
 South Boston branch, 372 West Broadway, *cor.* E street.
 South-End branch, English High School building, Montgomery street.
 West Roxbury delivery station, Centre, *near* Mt. Vernon street.

APPENDIX XII.

EXAMINING COMMITTEES FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.

The following gentlemen have served on the Examining Committees for the years given. The names in *italics* are those of trustees who have acted as chairmen of the various committees. The thirty-fourth year was from May 1 to Dec. 31, 1885, a period of eight months, for which no Examining Committee was appointed.

Abbott, *Hon.* J. G., 1870.
 Abbott, *S. A. B.*, 1880.
 Adams, Nehemiah, *D.D.*, 1860.
 Adams, Wm. T., 1875.
 Alger, *Rev.* Wm. R., 1870.
 Amory, Miss Anna S., 1890.
 Andrew, *Hon.* John F., 1888.
 Appleton, *Hon.* Nathan, 1854.
 Apthorp, Wm. F., 1883.
 Arnold, Howard P., 1881.
 Aspinwall, *Col.* Thomas, 1860.
 Attwood, G., 1877.
 Bailey, Edwin C., 1861.
 Ball, Joshua D., 1861.
 Bangs, Edward, 1887.
 Barnard, James M., 1866.
 Bartlett, Sidney, 1869.
 Beebe, James M., 1858.
 Beecher, *Rev.* Edward, 1854.
 Bent, Samuel Arthur, 1890.
 Bigelow, Jacob, *M.D.*, 1857.
 Bigelow, *Hon.* John P., 1856.
 Blagden, George W., *D.D.*, 1856.
 Blake, John G., *M.D.*, 1883.
 Bodfish, *Rev.* Joshua P., 1879.
 Bowditch, Henry I., *M.D.*, 1855.
 Bowditch, Henry I., *M.D.*, 1865.
 Bowditch, H. P., *M.D.*, 1881.
 Bowditch, J. Ingersoll, 1855.
 Bowman, Alfonzo, 1867.
 Bradford, Charles F., 1868.
 Brewer, Thomas M., 1865.
 Brimmer, *Hon.* Martin, 1890.
 Brooks, *Rev.* Phillips, 1871.
 Browne, Causten, 1876.
 Buckingham, C. E., *M.D.*, 1872.
 Burroughs, *Rev.* Henry, jr., 1869.
 Chadwick, James R., *M.D.*, 1877.
 Chaney, *Rev.* George L., 1868.
 Chase, George B., 1876.
 Chase, George B., 1877, 1885.
 Cheney, *Mrs.*, Ednah D., 1881.
 Clapp, William W., jr., 1864.
 Clarke, James Freeman, *D.D.*, 1877.
 Clarke, James Freeman, *D.D.*, 1882.
 Collar, Wm. C., 1874.

Cudworth, Warren H., *D.D.*, 1878.
 Curtis, Charles P., 1862.
 Curtis, Daniel S., 1872.
 Curtis, Thos. B., *M.D.*, 1874.
 Cushing, Thomas, 1885.
 Dalton, Charles H., 1884.
 Dana, Samuel T., 1857.
 Dean, Benjamin, 1873.
 Denny, Henry G., 1876.
 Dexter, *Rev.* Henry M., 1866.
 Dillingham, *Rev.* Pitt, 1886.
 Dix, James A., 1860.
 Doherty, Philip J., 1888.
 Donahoe, Patrick, 1869.
 Durant, Henry F., 1863.
 Duryea, Jos. T., *D.D.*, 1880.
 Dwight, John S., 1868.
 Dwight, Thomas, *M.D.*, 1880.
 Eastburn, Manton, *D.D.*, 1863.
 Eaton, William S., 1887.
 Edes, Henry H., 1886.
 Eliot, Samuel, *L.L.D.*, 1868.
 Ellis, Arthur B., 1888, 1889.
 Ellis, Calvin, *M.D.*, 1871.
 Ellis, Geo. E., *D.D.*, 1881.
 Endicott, William, jr., 1878.
 Evans, George W., 1887, 1888, 1889.
 Field, Walbridge A., 1866.
 Fields, James T., 1872.
 Fitz, Reginald H., 1879.
 Foote, *Rev.* Henry W., 1864.
 Fowle, William F., 1864.
 Freeland, Charles W., 1867.
 Frost, Oliver, 1854.
 Frothingham, Richard, 1876.
 Furness, Horace Howard, *L.L.D.*, 1882.
 Gannett, Ezra S., *D.D.*, 1855.
 Gay, George H., 1876.
 Gilchrist, Daniel S., 1872.
 Gordon, George A., *D.D.*, 1885.
 Gould, A. A., *M.D.*, 1864.
 Grant, Robert, 1884.
 Gray, John C., jr., 1877.
 Green, Samuel A., *M.D.*, 1868.

- Greenough, William W.*, 1858, 1874, 1883, 1886.
Grinnell, Rev. C. E., 1874.
Hale, Rev. Edward E., 1858.
Hale, Mrs. George S., 1887, 1888.
Hale, Moses L., 1862.
Haskins, Rev. George F., 1865.
Hassam, John T., 1885.
Hayes, Hon. F. B., 1874.
Haynes, Henry W., 1879.
Haynes, Henry W., 1881, 1884.
Hayward, George, M.D., 1863.
Heard, John, jr., 1888, 1889.
Heard, John T., 1853.
Herford, Brooke, D.D., 1884.
Herrick, Samuel E., D.D., 1888, 1889.
Higginson, Thomas W., 1883.
Hill, Clement Hugh, 1880.
Hillard, Hon. George S., 1853.
Hillard, Hon. George S., 1873.
Hodges, Richard, M., M.D., 1870.
Holmes, Edward J., 1881, 1884.
Holmes, Oliver W., M.D., 1858.
Holmes, Oliver W., jr., 1882.
Homans, Charles D., M.D., 1867.
Homans, Mrs. Charles D., 1885, 1886, 1887.
Homer, George, 1870.
Homer, Peter T., 1857.
Hubbard, William J., 1858.
Hunnewell, James F., 1880.
Hyde, George B., 1879.
Jeffries, B. Joy, M.D., 1869.
Jenkins, Charles E., 1879.
Jewell, Hon. Harvey, 1863.
Jordan, Eben D., 1873.
Kidder, Henry P., 1870.
Kimball, David P., 1874.
Kimball, Henry H., 1865.
Kirk, Edward N., D.D., 1859.
Lawrence, Hon. Abbott, 1853.
Lawrence, Abbott, 1859.
Lawrence, Miss Harriette S., 1890.
Lawrence, James, 1855.
Lee, Miss Alice, 1889, 1890.
Lewis, Weston, 1872, 1878.
Lincoln, Hon. F. W., 1856.
Lincoln, Solomon, 1886.
Little, James L., 1864.
Lombard, Prof. Josiah L., 1868.
Loring, Hon. Charles G., 1855.
Lothrop, Loring, 1866.
Lowell, Augustus, 1883.
**Lowell, Edward J.*, 1885.
Lunt, Hon. George, 1874.
Lyman, George H., M.D., 1885.
McCleary, Samuel F., 1890.
Manning, Rev. Jacob M., 1861.
Mason, Rev. Charles, 1857.
Mason, Robert M., 1869.
Maxwell, J. Audley, 1883.
Metcalf, Rev. Theodore A., 1888, 1889.
Minns, Thomas, 1864.
Minot, Francis, 1866.
Morrill, Charles J., 1885.
Morse, John T., jr., 1879.
Morse, Robert M., jr., 1878.
Morton, Hon. Ellis W., 1871.
Mudge, Hon. E. R., 1871.
Neale, Rollin H., D.D., 1853.
Noble, John, 1882.
Norcross, Otis, 1880.
O'Brien, Hugh, 1879.
O'Reilly, John Boyle, 1878.
Otis, G. A., 1860.
Paddock, Rt. Rev. Benj. H., 1876.
Parker, Charles Henry, 1888, 1889.
Parkman, Henry, 1885.
Parks, Rev. Leighton, 1882.
Perkins, Charles C., 1871.
Perry, Thomas S., 1879, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1890.
Phillips, John C., 1882.
Phillips, Jonathan, 1854.
Prescott, William H., LL.D., 1853.
Prince, Hon. F. O., 1888, 1889, 1890.
Putnam, George, D.D., 1870.
Putnam, Hon. John P., 1865.
Randall, Charles L., M.D., 1884.
Rice, Hon. Alexander H., 1860.
Rogers, Prof. William B., 1861.
Rollins, J. Wingate, 1888, 1889.
Ropes, John C., 1872.
Rotch, Benjamin S., 1863.
Runkle, Prof. J. D., 1882.
Russell, Samuel H., 1880.
Sanger, Hon. George P., 1860.
Seaver, Edwin P., 1881.
Shepard, Hon. Harvey N., 1888, 1889.
Shurtleff, Hon. Nathaniel B., 1857.
Smith, Charles C., 1873.
Smith, Mrs. Charles C., 1881, 1886.
Sprague, Charles J., 1859.
Sprague, Homer B., 1882.
Stedman, C. Ellery, M.D., 1888.
Stevens, Oliver, 1858.
Stevenson, Hon. J. Thomas, 1856.
Stockwell, S. N., 1861.
Stone, Col. Henry, 1885, 1886, 1887.
Story, Joseph, 1856.
Sullivan, Richard, 1883, 1884.
Teele, John O., 1886.
Thaxter, Adam W., 1855.
Thayer, George A., 1875.
Thayer, Rev. Thomas B., 1862.
Thomas, B. F., 1875.
Thomas, Seth J., 1856.
Ticknor, George, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1859, 1863, 1866.
Tobey, Hon. Edward S., 1862.
Twombly, Rev. A. S., 1883, 1884.
Upham, J. B., M.D., 1865.
Vibbert, Rev. Geo. H., 1873.
Wales, George W., 1875.
Walley, Hon. Samuel H., 1862.
Ward, Rev. Julius H., 1882,

Ware, Charles E., *M.D.*, 1875.
Ware, Darwin E., 1881.
Warner, Hermann J., 1867.
Warren, *Hon.* Charles H., 1859.
Warren, J. Collins, *M.D.*, 1878.
Waterston, *Rev.* Robert C., 1867.
Wells, *Mrs.* Kate G., 1877.
Wharton, William F., 1886.
Whipple, Edwin P., 1869.
Whitmore, William H., 1887.
Whitney, Daniel H., 1862.
Whitney, Henry A., 1873.

Wightman, *Hon.* Joseph M., 1859.
Williams, Harold, *M.D.*, 1888, 1889,
1890.
Williamson, William C., 1881.
Wilson, Elisha T., *M.D.*, 1861.
Winsor, Justin, 1867.
Winthrop, *Hon.* Robert C., 1854.
Winthrop, Robert C., jr., 1887.
Woodbury, Charles Levi, 1871.
Woolson, *Mrs.* Abba Goold, 1888,
1889.
Wright, *Hon.* Carroll D., 1884.

APPENDIX XIII.

TRUSTEES FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS.

The Honorable Edward Everett was President of the Board from 1852 to 1864; the late George Ticknor in 1865; William W. Greenough, Esq., from 1866 to April, 1888; Samuel A. B. Abbott, Esq., since the latter date.

The Board for 1852 was a preliminary organization; that for 1853 made what is called the first annual report. It consisted of one alderman and one common councilman, and five citizens at large, till 1867, when a revised ordinance made it to consist of one alderman, two common councilmen, and six citizens at large, two of whom retired, unless reelected, each year, while the members from the City Council were elected yearly. In 1878 the organization of the Board was changed to include one alderman, one councilman, and five citizens at large, as before 1867; and in 1885, by the provisions of the amended city charter, the representation of the city government upon the Board by an alderman and a councilman was abolished, leaving the Board, as at present, consisting of five citizens at large.

ABBOTT, SAMUEL A. B., 1879-90.
 Allen, James B., 1852-53.
 APPLETON, THOMAS G., 1852-57.
 Barnes, Joseph H., 1871-72.
 BIGELOW, JOHN P., 1852-68.
 BOWDITCH, HENRY L., 1865-68.
 Bradlee, John T., 1869-70.
 Bradt, Herman D., 1872-73.
 Braman, Jarvis D., 1868-69.
 BRAMAN, JARVIS D., 1869-72.
 Brown, J. C. J., 1861-62.
 Burditt, Charles A., 1873-76.
 Carpenter, George O., 1870-71.
 CHASE, GEORGE B., 1877-85.
 Clark, John M., 1855-56.
 Clark, John T., 1873-78.
 CLARKE, JAMES FREEMAN, 1878-88.
 Clapp, William W., jr., 1864-66.
 Coe, Henry F., 1878.
 Crane, Samuel D., 1860-61.
 CURTIS, DANIEL S., 1873-75.
 Dennie, George, 1858-60.
 Dickinson, M. F., jr., 1871-72.
 Drake, Henry A., 1863-64.
 Erving, Edward S., 1852.
 EVERETT, EDWARD, 1852-64.
 Flynn, James J., 1883.
 Frost, Oliver, 1854-55; 1856-58.
 FROTHINGHAM, RICHARD, 1875-79.

Gatfield, Thomas, 1867-68.
 GREEN, SAMUEL A., 1868-78.
 GREENOUGH, WILLIAM W., 1856-88.
 Guild, Curtis, 1876-77; 1878-79.
 Harris, William G., 1869-70.
 Haynes, Henry W., 1858-59.
 HAYNES, HENRY W., 1880-90.
 HILLARD, GEORGE S., 1872-75; 1876-77.
 Howes, Osborne, jr., 1877-78.
 Ingalls, Melville E., 1870-71.
 Jackson, Patrick T., 1864-65.
 Jenkins, Edward J., 1885.
 Keith, James M., 1868-70.
 Kimball, David P., 1874-76.
 Lawrence, James, 1852.
 Lee, John H., 1884-85.
 Lewis, Weston, 1867-68.
 LEWIS, WESTON, 1868-79.
 LEWIS, WINSLOW, 1867.
 Little, Samuel, 1871-73.
 Messinger, George W., 1855.
 Morse, Godfrey, 1883-84.
 MORTON, ELLIS W., 1870-73.
 Munroe, Abel B., 1854.
 Newton, Jeremiah L., 1867-68.
 Niles, Stephen R., 1870-71.
 O'Brien, Hugh, 1879-82.
 Pease, Frederick, 1872-73.

- Perkins, William E., 1873-74.
 Perry, Lyman, 1852.
 Plummer, Farnham, 1856-57.
 Pope, Benjamin, 1876-77.
 Pope, Richard, 1877-78.
 Pratt, Charles E., 1880-82.
 PIERCE, PHINEAS, 1888-90.
 PRINCE, FREDERICK O., 1888-90.
 PUTNAM, GEORGE, 1868-77.
 Reed, Sampson, 1852-53.
 Richards, William R., 1889-90.
 Sanger, George P., 1860-61.
 Sears, Philip H., 1859-60.
 Seaver, Benjamin, 1852.
 Shepard, Harvey N., 1878-79.
 SHURTLEFF, NATHANIEL B., 1852-68.
 Stebbins, Solomon B., 1882-83.
 Story, Joseph, 1855-56; 1865-67.
 THOMAS, BENJAMIN F., 1877-78.
 TICKNOR, GEORGE, 1852-66.
 Tyler, John S., 1863-64; 1866-67.
 Warren, George W., 1852-54.
 Washburn, Frederick L., 1857-58.
 WHIPPLE, EDWIN P., 1868-70.
 Whitmore, William H., 1882-83.
 WHITMORE, WILLIAM H., 1885-88.
 Whitney, Daniel H., 1862-63.
 Whitten, Charles V., 1883-85.
 Wilson, Elisha T., 1861-63.
 Wilson, George, 1852.
 WINSOR, JUSTIN, 1867.
 Wolcott, Roger, 1879.
 Wright, Albert, J., 1868-69.

Citizens at large in SMALL CAPITALS.



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
UPON THE
CONDITION AND PROGRESS OF THE WORK
ON
THE NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston have the honor to present to the City Council their semi-annual report upon the condition and progress of the work on the new Public Library building. The Trustees beg leave to preface their report with a statement of their relation to the new Public Library building that seems to be proper in order both to show why a further appropriation is required to complete the work, and to correct certain misapprehensions in regard to their action.

Although incorporated by a special act of the Legislature, that in some degree removes them from the direct control of the City Council, the Trustees have always desired to act in accordance with the expressed wishes of the City Council as representing the people of Boston. They believe, and have always acted upon the belief, that all petitions and requests that require the action of the Legislature touching matters in which the Public Library is concerned should come from the City Council, and they have, therefore, never

petitioned, or officially aided in a petition, that did not originate therein.

In the year 1887, when it became evident that the new building could not be built in a satisfactory manner by the City Architect, certain citizens of Boston petitioned the General Court for an act that should put the whole control of the erection of the new building into the hands of the Trustees. Although they were requested to aid this petition officially, they declined so to do, and appeared before the Legislative Committee only in their individual capacity and as witnesses. Two of the Trustees, the only ones examined by the committee, stated that they appeared only as witnesses, and that the Trustees declined to take any official action in aid of the petition. It should be said here that the City Council at that time made no objection to the grant of the new powers proposed to be given to the Trustees.

Again in 1889, when the City Council delayed action in regard to providing money for continuation of the work upon the new building, and it was evident that legislative action would be required to enable the city to borrow the needed money, the Trustees declined to petition the Legislature for the reason that in their judgment a petition of such a nature should come only from the City Council.

In order that the matter might be brought before the Legislature before the limit of the time fixed for taking up new business by that body, and in the absence of any action on the part of the City Council, certain citizens of Boston petitioned that the city should be permitted to borrow beyond the debt limit a sufficient sum to complete the new building. This petition was not opposed by the City Council and it was understood that they were favorable to it. The Trustees at the request of the committee appeared before it and testified that in their judgment the building could not be completed for \$1,000,000, but that a much larger sum would be required. The committee, however, reported a bill, which became a law, to authorize a loan for \$1,000,000 only. It was stated at the time that the committee thought that the rest of the money required could be appropriated from the annual levy. Acting under this law the City Council authorized the borrowing of \$1,000,000, to be placed at the disposal of the Trustees.

After the passage of the Act of 1887 the Trustees, with reluctance, assumed the responsibility put upon them. Their first duty was to select an architect best fitted to design and erect a building that should not disappoint the just expectations of the citizens. Such a building, they believed, should be absolutely fire proof, and afford ample room to provide

for the present and prospective needs of the library, both for storing books accessibly, and for the accommodation of readers, students, and the administrative force of the institution. It should be so arranged and constructed that the annual outlay for management and care should be reduced to the lowest possible amount; and at the same time and without the sacrifice or curtailment of any of these practical necessities for architectural effect, it should be a monumental edifice and an ornament to the city. Keeping these requirements in view, the Trustees examined carefully the work of the foremost architects of the country and consulted freely with architects and others whose opinions would be likely to afford them assistance, and finally decided that Mr. McKim, of the firm of McKim, Mead, & White, could best carry out their intentions. It should be said here that Mr. McKim was at the time personally unacquainted with any one of the Trustees. They believe that their judgment was not at fault in making this selection, and that the city will always have reason to be proud of the building that Mr. McKim has designed.

In making the plans of the building the Trustees and Mr. McKim availed themselves of all information in regard to libraries that was within their reach. They were greatly assisted by Dr. James Freeman Clarke and W. W. Greenough, Esq., of their number, who had, probably, as extensive an acquaintance with library needs and with library buildings, both in this country and abroad, as any two persons living. After long and careful study they finally determined upon the plans that were presented to the City Council in 1888.

In their annual report submitted in January, 1888, they stated that they had reasonable assurance that the plans would be completed and estimates prepared by the first of the succeeding April. During the winter of 1888 an order was introduced and passed in the City Council that "His Honor the Mayor request the Trustees of the Public Library to commence and complete such part of the work as could be done within the appropriation already made therefor." This order was referred by the Board of Aldermen to the Library Committee, who requested information from the Trustees, who thereupon appeared before the committee and gave what information they had in their power to give, and laid before them all the plans for the new building so far as they had been completed. They also put at the disposal of the committee the architect, his office, and all the plans, papers, and figures, of every sort and description, relating to the new building. Further than this, they submitted a carefully-made model of the proposed building; and this

model, together with all the plans, was put on public exhibition in the old State House.

There were several hearings on the subject at which some of the Trustees were present; but no estimates of the cost of the building were presented by them. At this time the Trustees were Mr. Greenough, who was succeeded in May, 1888, by Mr. Prince; Dr. Clarke, who was succeeded in July, 1888, by Mr. Pierce; Mr. Whitmore, who was succeeded in January, 1889, by Mr. Richards; and Messrs. Haynes and Abbott. During the latter part of the time that the matter was in the possession of the committee, Mr. Greenough, President of the Board, was absent from the State by reason of ill-health; Dr. Clarke was too ill to attend to any business, and within a few weeks died; Mr. Abbott was confined to his house by a severe illness; Mr. Haynes had taken no active part in the hearings before the committee, and was not consulted by them in regard to any estimate; and the remaining Trustee was, with his accustomed energy, opposing the grant of any money for the proposed building: so that no member of the Trustees, so far as is known, was consulted as to the estimate contained in the preamble of the order hereinafter referred to.

The committee in consultation with the architect fixed upon an estimate of \$1,166,000, which was embodied in the order reported by them. This estimate, it should be said in justice to the architect, had to be prepared very hurriedly; it was, however, founded upon figures furnished by two contractors of responsibility in their respective lines of business, for each item of construction. It was never submitted to or approved by the Trustees individually or collectively. That it was not an estimate made or approved by the Trustees is shown by the preamble of the order which was finally passed, as follows:—

CITY OF BOSTON,
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, May 7, 1888.

Whereas, It appears from careful estimates presented by the architects appointed by the Trustees of the Public Library, that the cost of the new building will be \$1,166,000; now, therefore, in order to expedite the erection of said building, but intending that no more than the above sum shall be used in said construction,

Ordered, That the Trustees of the Public Library be and hereby are authorized to commence the construction and erection of the new Public Library building, according to the plans made by the architects McKim, Mead, & White, and approved by said Trustees, and to proceed with the work thereon, as far as it can be done within the limits of the appropriation, made for the erection of a new library building on Dartmouth street, St. James avenue, and Boylston street, and the said Trustees are authorized to expend the balance of said appropriation therefor.

Passed. Yeas 10, nays 2. Sent down for concurrence.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, May 10.

Concurred. Yeas 62, nays 1.

Approved by the Mayor, May 12, 1888.

A true copy.

Attest:

(Signed)

J. H. O'NEIL,
City Clerk.

It may be further said that this estimate was never seen by the Trustees, with the exception of perhaps one of them, until it had passed the Board of Aldermen.

The architect's estimate for the first large contract, which included foundations, cut-granite, brick masonry, and iron-work for the first story, was \$315,000. These figures were based upon those used in making the estimate reported to the City Council. This contract was finally let for \$266,776, so that it seemed at first as if the building could be completed for the sum specified. To show the difficulty of making an estimate of this character it may be said that the bids for it, offered to the Trustees by the most prominent contractors in the city, varied from \$266,776, the lowest, to \$354,555, the highest. As the work progressed, however, it became evident to the Trustees that the estimate made by the committee was too small, and upon examination it was found they had accidentally omitted some very large items, namely: architects' commission, decorative work, platforms and approaches, shelving, and incidentals, — which latter item for a building of this character should be estimated at twenty per cent. of the cost. In their first annual report thereafter the Trustees called the attention of the City Council to this fact.

During the winter of 1888, as has been stated, the Legislature authorized the city to borrow \$1,000,000 outside the debt limit, to be used towards the completion of the building; and in the spring the City Council placed this sum at the disposal of the Trustees. The Legislative Committee, as has been before stated, were informed by the Trustees that this sum was not sufficient; and in their next annual report the Trustees again informed the City Council that the sum of \$1,000,000 appropriated was not sufficient, and had never been approved by the Trustees as an estimate for the completion of the building. A full and detailed statement of the contracts and expenditures in regard to the building was also submitted, showing that the Trustees had not enough money to do much more than cover the building in.

Since the commencement of the erection of the building the Trustees have made regular semi-annual reports to the City Council, and one additional report that was made by special request.

During the past summer and autumn the architects were busily engaged in preparing a detailed and careful estimate of the cost of completing the building. This estimate was presented to the Trustees complete in the month of December. It was based upon the very best means of information within the reach of the architects and Trustees, and amounted to \$985,560. It included the statuary and decorative work contemplated at the time the plans and model were submitted to the City Council in 1888 and is submitted herewith [marked A].

After careful consideration the Trustees decided to reduce this estimate to \$850,000 by the omission of items of statuary and other ornamental work which, although they would add greatly to the beauty of the building, are not absolutely necessary to its completion in a form of which the city will have no reason to be ashamed. This revised estimate is submitted herewith [marked B]. It was communicated to the City Council in December, 1890, and an order was then passed requesting His Honor the Mayor to petition the General Court for leave to borrow the amount named outside the debt limit.

If by the liberality of the city all things omitted could be restored, the result would be most fortunate for the building and for the city.

A detailed statement of the present condition of the building, and of the work done during the present year, is given in the report of the Clerk of the Works appended hereto [marked C].

It is believed that, if there should be no delay in making an appropriation for the completion of the building, it will be ready for occupancy before the end of the next year. During the past year the work has been somewhat delayed by reason of strikes and other causes beyond the control of the contractors. The accompanying schedules show all the contracts that have been made for the construction of the building from the beginning; the amounts that have been added to the contracts; and the amounts that have been deducted from them; and the money remaining at the disposal of the Trustees.

In examining these schedules it should be borne in mind that a very small amount of the additions have been for changes that add to the cost of the building. Owing to the fact that the Trustees have not been able, by reason of the smallness of the appropriation at their disposal, to make at any time contracts for the completion of the whole work, but have been obliged in making proposals to give out the work in parts so that bids would not exceed the sums ap-

propriated, it has been found in many cases that certain work left out of the original contracts could be better performed in connection with the work contracted for. They have, therefore, where their funds permitted, added such work to the original contract. This has never been done except in the interest of economy; and the additions so made have been for work that would be necessary for the completion of the building. Such additions, therefore, have not added to the cost of the whole building. In every case the Trustees have had careful estimates made of the amount of the extra work, and have asked bids for it from the contractors and others; but the work has been given to the contractor only when his bid was less than that of outsiders. It will be seen by examination of the report of the Clerk of the Works that the net amount of all additions to contracts is but six and four-tenths per cent. of the expenditures made and contracted for. Of the work thus added, but a very small part, probably one-tenth, has been work not contemplated at the time when the original plans were made; but this increase has been many times offset by work omitted. With these slight exceptions it is believed that all changes in the original plans have tended to reduce the ultimate cost of the building. A percentage of six and four-tenths for extras would be small even if they increased the final cost of the building—as they do not in this case. Very few building contracts are completed with so small a percentage of work added. A comparison of the contract price with the total cost of fourteen government buildings [see Appendix D], taken at random from the Supervising Architect's report of 1875, the last one that happens to be at hand, shows an average addition for extras of eighty-three per cent.

No material changes have been made in the main design of the building as laid before the City Council in 1888, except in the interests of economy. The chief changes are as follows: the court has been changed from its original design in granite to brick and marble, at an estimated saving of \$45,000; the height of the building has been reduced nine feet, at an estimated saving of \$133,000; the plan of the special library floor has been changed, at an estimated saving of \$50,000; changes have been made in the design of the new Bates Hall, at an estimated saving of \$25,000; changes have been made in the vestibules, at an estimated saving of \$15,000; changes have been made in the roof, at an estimated saving of \$15,000; changes have been made in decorative work, and in the whole interior finish of the building, that must result in a very large saving over the original plans,

but the exact amount of which it is impossible to state with accuracy. All these changes have been made with the approval and by the advice of the architect; and it is believed that they will not take away from the convenience or beauty of the structure. Some changes have been made in the design of the Blagden-street elevation, which, it is believed, have not materially affected the cost of the building, but have greatly improved its appearance.

The total cost of the building when completed will be \$2,218,865, including shelving but no other furniture. Taking into consideration the magnitude and the nature of the work this cost is not excessive. Exclusive of the court, the building together with the platform covers an acre and one-half and contains 4,312,158 cubic feet. The superficial area of flooring is four acres, and of the ceilings four and one-half acres. The present stack, which can be nearly doubled when more room is needed, is built to hold fifteen miles of shelving, while five miles more are required in other parts of the structure. The cost of the building by the cubic foot compares favorably with other public buildings and with the best class of fire-proof business buildings. The cost of post-offices and custom houses erected by the government varies from fifty cents to one dollar — the cost of the court-house and post-office at Hartford reaching the latter sum. The library building when completed will have cost but fifty-one and four-tenths cents a cubic foot.

The old library on Boylston street was built to accommodate 220,000 books, and afforded 6,868 square feet of room for students and readers, making the cost for housing each book \$1.15. The new building is built to contain 2,000,000 volumes with 32,900 square feet of room for students and readers, making the cost for housing each book \$1.10.

There are at present more than 220,000 books in the old library, but they are not properly and conveniently housed, as the real capacity of the building does not exceed the figures given.

It must always be remembered that if the architects have underestimated the cost of the new library building, there is nothing surprising in such a mistake on their part. They had no precedents to guide them in their undertaking either in this country or in Europe. They were pioneers in the attempt to solve the embarrassing problem of how to combine in one structure two essentially distinct and different purposes. They had not only to provide for the proper housing of a very large and continually-increasing collection of volumes, for this they might have found examples to study, or to imitate, in the Old World, but they had to endeavor to do

what has never been attempted, — to make this vast storehouse of learning accessible and useful to all the people of a great city. And this must be provided for in two ways; not only must ample space be furnished for reading and study to all who might seek the building, but convenient arrangements must also be devised for the speedy delivery of books to all comers to be taken away from the building for home use. This is another innovation in library economy, for which, upon anything like a similar grand scale, there is no precedent to be found.

Here we have indeed a difficult and perplexing problem, and the Trustees feel that it has been satisfactorily solved. But the results have not been obtained by intuition; nor have they sprung Minerva-like from the brain of any one man. They are the slow and settled issues of long and faithful labors, necessitating modifications and changes, which have suggested themselves as the work went on.

Thus has been developed a building which speaks for itself; which has won alike the admiration of instructed architects and the approval of cultivated amateurs. The Trustees, believing this structure to be an honor to our city, and a credit to the liberal and far-sighted city government that has provided the means for its exterior construction, now only ask that its interior may be completed in a manner worthy of the noble edifice, and creditable to this wealthy and public-spirited community, which has always regarded its Public Library as one of its chief civic glories.

There is yet another consideration bearing upon the cost and value of the Public Library building, that was stated so well by Mr. Winthrop on the occasion of the dedication of the old building, that the Trustees cannot do better than to quote his words. Mr. Winthrop said: —

"But there is another reflection, Mr. Mayor, which more than reconciles me to any amount of expenditure which may have been honestly incurred in the execution of our trust. The building which we are here to dedicate is eminently and peculiarly a building for the people, — not only constructed at the cost, but designed and arranged for the use, accommodation, and enjoyment of the whole people of Boston. Almost all the other public edifices which may be found within the limits of our city, though they may be devoted to purposes in which the many are more or less deeply and directly interested, are yet specially and necessarily assigned to the occupation and enjoyment of a few. Our convenient and comfortable City Hall is for those who, like yourselves, gentlemen, may be intrusted, from time to time, with the management of municipal affairs. Our massive Court-House

is for the still smaller number, who are set apart for the administration of civil or of criminal justice. Our excellent school-houses are for the exclusive occupation of our children. But the edifice within whose walls we are assembled is emphatically for the use and enjoyment of all the inhabitants of Boston. Even the old Cradle of Liberty itself is far less frequently and uniformly devoted to the uses of the whole people than this new Cradle of Literature and Learning will be. A political canvass, or a patriotic celebration, or an anniversary festival, may fill that hall ten times, or it may be twenty or thirty times a year,—but even then the free discussion which justly belongs to all such occasions involves an element of division and strife, of party, of sect, or of section. But this hall will always be open, and always be occupied, and the free reading which is to find a place in it involves neither contention nor controversy. Those who entertain the most discordant opinions may here sit, shoulder to shoulder, enjoying their favorite authors as quietly and as harmoniously as those authors themselves will repose, side by side, when restored to a common shelf.”

THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,

By SAML. A. B. ABBOTT,

President.

APPENDIX A.

ITEMIZED ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF COMPLETING THE NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

1.	Metal work ; including iron, bronze and bronze work, statuary and busts	\$267,154
2.	Fixtures ; including electric work, heating and ventilation, elevators, plumbing, bells and speaking-tubes, and book railway	123,500
3.	Marble and mosaic work ; including floors (about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre), walls, wainscots, trims, and ceilings	118,621
4.	Carpenter and cabinet work ; including doors, bookcases, screens, and shelving (about 15 miles in stacks alone), windows and lockers	67,110
5.	Plastering and stucco work ; including cornices, ceilings, walls (about $2\frac{1}{3}$ acres), pilasters, corbels, and capitals	65,676
6.	Floors, other than marble ; including wood, tile, stone, concrete, cement, asphalt, and granolithic ; also wood and stone stair-treads	50,751
7.	Rough interior work ; including Guastavino tile arches, terra cotta partitions, fire-proofing, and rough carpenter work	28,780
8.	Painting ; including wood-finish and decorative painting on walls and cornices	55,143
9.	Stone-work, interior	20,224
10.	Other exterior work ; including clock in court, sidewalks, arcade ceiling, cellar extensions on Boylston street and St. James avenue, columns and pedestals for statuary on Dartmouth street,	29,810
11.	Wainscots and bases, other than marble ; including brick-tile, wood, Keene cement, and stone	16,487
12.	Trims, other than marble ; including stone, wood, and Keene cement	13,292
13.	Brick and tile work ; including chimney-pieces, hearths, fireplace linings, terra cotta caps and bases, and Volkmar tiles on walls	7,433
14.	Carving, stone	11,500
15.	Hardware	2,207
16.	Papier-maché work	744
17.	Whitewashing (about $2\frac{1}{3}$ acres)	667
18.	Contingencies	50,000
		<hr/>
		\$929,105
Architects' commission, at 5%		46,455
Office expenses ; inspectors, watchmen, etc.		10,000
		<hr/>
		\$985,560

APPENDIX B.

ITEMIZED ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF COMPLETING THE NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, AS REDUCED BY THE TRUSTEES.

1. Metal work; including iron, bronze and bronze work, statuary and busts	\$185,154
2. Fixtures; including electric work, heating and ventilation, elevators, plumbing, bells and speaking tubes, and book railway	123,500
3. Marble and mosaic work; including floors (about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre), walls, wainscots, trims, and ceilings	108,121
4. Carpenter and cabinet work; including doors, bookcases, screens, and shelving (about 15 miles in stacks alone), windows and lockers	49,116
5. Plastering and stucco work; including cornices, ceilings, walls (about $2\frac{1}{3}$ acres), pilasters, corbels, and capitals	65,676
6. Floors, other than marble; including wood, tile, stone, concrete, cement, asphalt, and granolithic; also wood and stone stair-treads	50,751
7. Rough interior work; including Guastavino tile arches, terra cotta partitions, fire-proofing, and rough carpenter work	28,780
8. Painting; including wood finish and decorative painting on walls and cornices	25,143
9. Stone-work, interior	20,224
10. Other exterior work; including clock in court, sidewalks, arcade ceiling, cellar extensions on Boylston street and St. James avenue, columns and pedestals for statuary on Dartmouth street,	19,810
11. Wainscots and bases, other than marble; including brick-tile and wood, Keene cement, and stone	16,487
12. Trims, other than marble; including stone, wood, and Keene cement	13,292
13. Brick and tile work; including chimney-pieces, hearths, fireplace linings, terra cotta caps and bases, and Volkmar tiles on walls	7,433
14. Carving, stone	11,500
15. Hardware	2,207
16. Papier-maché work	744
17. Whitewashing (about $2\frac{2}{3}$ acres)	667
18. Contingencies, about 10%	71,395
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	\$800,000
Architects' commission, at 5%	40,000
Office expenses; inspectors, watchmen, etc.	10,000
	<hr/>
	\$850,000

APPENDIX C.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF WORKS ON THE NEW
PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, FOR 1890.

NEW CONTRACTS.

Post & McCord, iron roof, Apr. 12, 1890.

Lindeman Terra Cotta Roofing Tile Co., tile roofing, May 2, 1890.

PRESENT CONDITION OF BUILDING.

Façades and interior masonry walls complete. Granite platform around building about half built. Fire-proof floors substantially complete throughout, with exception of part of stacks C and D. Iron roof practically finished. Tile roofing laid on nearly the whole of Dartmouth-street slope. Of the interior finish, the marble vestibule on Dartmouth street, including marble ceiling vault and marble floor; the walls, floor, and mosaic ceiling (all of marble) in the entrance hall; the marble stairs of the staircase-hall; and the Yorkshire stone stairs of the special library staircase, — are all built.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF WORK UNDER THE
VARIOUS CONTRACTS, JAN. 1, 1891.

Contract with John T. Scully, dated May, 1888, for piling.

Amount of contract	\$7,714 44
Payments made to date	7,714 44

Contract with Woodbury & Leighton, dated Aug. 1, 1888, for foundations, cut-granite, brick masonry, and iron-work.

Original contract	\$266,776 00
Net amount added by Special Orders	46,958 84

Total amount contracted for	\$313,734 84
Payments made to date	303,344 61

Reserve on work done	\$2,500 00
Work not done	7,890 23

Balance	<u>\$10,390 23</u>
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Contract with R. Guastavino, dated June 25, 1889, for fire-proof floors (tile arch work).

Estimated amount of contract	\$71,059 06
Payments made to date	62,677 57

\$8,381 49

Reserve on work done	\$5,002 16
Work not done	3,379 33
	<hr/>
Balance	<u>\$8,381 49</u>

Contract with Woodbury & Leighton, dated July 22, 1889, for cut-granite, brick masonry, iron-work, freestone, marble, terra cotta, carpenter work, glazing, partition blocks, and rough plumbing.

Original contract	\$678,750 00
Net amount added by Special Orders	7,672 80
	<hr/>
Total amount contracted for	\$686,422 80
Payments made to date	421,591 00
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Reserve on work done	\$50,000 00
Work not done	214,831 80
	<hr/>
Balance	<u>\$264,831 80</u>

Contract with R. C. Fisher & Co., dated Aug. 21, 1889, for marble-work in entrance hall.

Original contract	\$18,600 00
Net amount added by Special Orders	27,383 75
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Total amount contracted for	\$45,983 75
Payments made to date	44,239 25
	<hr/>
Reserve on work done	\$800 00
Work not done	944 50
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Balance	<u>\$1,744 50</u>

Contract with Batterson, See, & Eisele, dated Aug. 21, 1889, for marble-work in staircase hall.

Original contract	\$69,173 00
Net amount deducted	9,400 00
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Total amount contracted for	\$59,773 00
Payments made to date	11,900 00
	<hr/>
Reserve on work done	\$2,100 00
Work not done	45,773 00
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Balance	<u>\$47,873 00</u>

Contract with Post & McCord, dated April 12, 1890, for iron roof.

Original contract	\$35,000 00
Net amount added by Special Orders	8,732 43
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Total amount contracted for	\$43,732 43
Payments to date	32,020 21
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Reserve on work done	\$10,673 40
Work not done	1,038 82
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Balance	<u>\$11,712 22</u>

Contract with Lindeman Terra Cotta Roofing Tile Co., dated May 2, 1890, for tile roofing.

Original contract	\$35,000 00
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Total amount contracted for	\$35,000 00
Payments to date	11,263 84
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Reserve on work done	\$3,754 61
Work not done	19,981 55
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Balance	<u>\$23,736 16</u>

GENERAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, JAN. 1, 1891.

Amount of appropriation May 1, 1887	\$368,854 89
Amount of loan authorized by Statute, approved March 1, 1889	1,000,000 00
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Total appropriations	<u>\$1,368,854 89</u>
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Amount of original contracts	\$1,182,072 50
Net amount added to contracts by Special Orders	81,347 82
Miscellaneous construction	4,412 16
<hr/>	
	\$1,267,832 48
Architects' commission on the above	63,391 62
Office expenses and incidentals, Superintendent, Watchman, Clerk	22,146 03
Balance at disposal of Trustees	15,484 76
<hr/>	
	<u>\$1,368,854 89</u>

Payments to date on contracts, including Special Orders, and on miscellaneous construction	\$899,163 08
Payments to date on architects' commis- sion	51,453 81
Payments to date on general office ex- penses and incidentals	22,146 03
Reserve on work done	\$74,830 17
Work not yet done on contracts already made	293,839 23
Architects' commission on above two items	11,937 81
Balance at disposal of Trustees	15,484 76
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	396,091 97
	<hr/>
	<u>\$1,368,854 89</u>

The principal items of labor and material which have gone into the building during the year 1890 are as follows:—

Contract with Woodbury & Leighton, dated July 22, 1889.

Cut-granite	45,700 cubic feet.
Common (including hollow) brick	2,928 M.
Perth Amboy speckled brick	167 "
Perth Amboy court brick	144 "
Yorkshire stone	421 cubic feet.
Terra cotta cornice	621 linear feet.
Terra cotta in court	435 pieces.
Iron beams	101 tons.
Iron columns	147 "
Concrete	20,827 cubic feet.
Granite carving (main cornice, imposts, architraves and soffits of arches, book- marks, key-blocks, and balconies).	
Marble carving, Dartmouth-street vestibule.	

Contract with Guastavino Fire Proof Construction Company,
dated June 25, 1889.

Tile arches and domes	75,700 square feet.
Iron beams	78 tons.
Skewbacks cut	1,400 linear feet.

Contract with R. C. Fisher & Co., dated Aug. 21, 1889.

Marble floor	2,342 square feet.
Yellow Iowa marble	3,500 cubic feet.
Marble mosaic	2,200 square feet.

Contract with Batterson, See, & Eisele, dated Aug. 21, 1889.

Echallion marble	875 cubic feet.
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Contract with Post & McCord, dated April 12, 1890.

Iron roof trusses	71
Iron plate girders	90 tons.
Iron beams	144 tons.
Iron angles, T irons, etc.	100,000 pounds.

Contract with Lindeman Terra Cotta Roofing Tile Co., dated May 2, 1890.

Roof tiles laid	9,600
Copper gutter laid	625 linear feet.

(Signed) ALEXANDER S. JENNEY,
Clerk of the Works.

APPENDIX D.

CONTRACT PRICE AND ACTUAL COST OF FOURTEEN BUILDINGS, TAKEN AT RANDOM FROM REPORT FOR 1885, OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT OF THE TREASURY.

	Contract price.	Actual cost.
Bangor, Me., Custom House	\$47,549 36	\$103,698 13
Baltimore, Md., Court House	112,808 04	205,176 97
Buffalo, N.Y., Custom House	117,769 65	191,764 34
Chelsea Marine Hospital	122,185 39	233,015 31
Cleveland Marine Hospital	25,000 00	87,703 66
Detroit Custom House	103,160 66	190,933 00
Indianapolis Custom House	98,983 78	166,240 00
Louisville, Ky., Custom House	148,158 00	246,640 75
New Haven, Conn., Custom House	88,000 00	158,256 00
Pittsburg, Pa., Custom House	39,866 00	99,767 00
Portsmouth, N.H., Custom House	82,728 00	145,046 91
Providence, R.I., Custom House	151,000 00	209,841 71
Richmond, Va., Custom House	110,000 00	194,404 47
San Francisco, Cal., Custom House	400,000 00	628,581 49

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